

HOME NEWS

Princess's
Ulster
visit acts as
rehearsalFrom Christopher Walker
Belfast

Princess Anne spent nearly five hours in Northern Ireland yesterday but security restrictions prevented her from catching more than a fleeting glimpse of the changes since her last visit, in 1961.

Apart from a brief helicopter flight to and from Aldergrove airport, she stayed inside Hillsborough Castle, which, until the abolition of the Stormont Parliament, was the official residence of the British Governor.

Troops and policemen flooded the castle and the village of Hillsborough more than 12 miles from Belfast. Detectives with personal radios thronged the castle grounds and all entrances were guarded. For the security forces the brief visit provided an important dress rehearsal for secret measures drawn up to protect the Queen during her planned two-day jubilee trip to Ulster in August.

Although the Provisional IRA has not specifically threatened the Royal Family every precaution was taken to avert an attack. The red Wessex helicopter of the Queen's Flight was escorted by an armed military helicopter and a door that should have been opened to enable reporters to watch the Princess deliver a short speech was kept shut by detectives. "We have instructions never to allow her to be in a direct line of fire for a minute", one explained.

Princess Anne was the second official royal visitor to Northern Ireland since the Provisional IRA campaign opened eight years ago. She was invited in her capacity as president of the Save the Children Fund.

Addressing the two hundred delegates at the charity's spring meeting, the Princess paid a personal tribute to fund-raisers



Princess Anne talking to Newtownards children at Hillsborough Castle.

and helpers of the fund in Northern Ireland who carried on their work in circumstances of what she described as "unparalleled difficulty and great personal danger".

The fund runs 34 play groups, play centres and junior clubs in many of Ulster's most deprived areas, including one for children visiting relatives inside the Maze prison.

Workers from the centres were among those who met the Princess yesterday. Only once there any indication of the difficulties posed them by

sectarianism and violence. It happened when a small group from one of the main republican areas in Belfast requested that no photographs or film should be taken of their short conversation with Princess Anne. "They made the request for their own protection", an official explained.

Before leaving the castle the Princess informally met members of the local Silver Jubilee Committee. Although the Queen's visit is to take place on August 10 and 11, traditionally two of the most violent days in

the Northern Ireland calendar, the authorities have always emphasized that it will be cancelled at the last minute if the security requirements are not considered satisfactory. Privately, senior members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary are known to believe that any attempt by the Queen to fulfil her normal scale of public engagements would present unacceptable security risks. That means that the restrictions accepted by the Princess are likely to be adopted by the Queen this summer.

Poll shows half
Welsh oppose
devolutionFrom a Staff Reporter
Cardiff

If there was a referendum now on the Government's devolution proposals half the people of Wales would vote against, according to an opinion poll published in the *Western Mail* yesterday.

Asked how they would vote, 1,000 people throughout Wales replied in this way: for, 27 per cent; against, 53 per cent; "don't know", 21 per cent.

Devolutionists will take the view that the poll confirms previous soundings that a substantial minority, about three-tenths of the people, are firmly in favour of devolution.

Building executives face
corruption summonsesFrom a Staff Reporter
Birmingham

A total of 58 summonses alleging 18 offences of conspiracy and corruption were served yesterday on four leading executives in the building industry in the Midlands and two companies.

West Midlands police said those involved were Alan Christopher Bryant, aged 53, who lives near Broadway, Worcester; Ernest Oliver Hubball, of Loughborough; Maurice Thomas Barwick, aged 51, of Loughborough; and Raymond Peter Samuels, aged 48, of Knowle, Solihull. The companies are Bryants (Holdings) Ltd and C. Bryant & Sons Ltd, of Shirley, Solihull.

The police said the sum-

monses alleged conspiracy and corruption between February 1, 1966, and December 31, 1972. They were returnable at Birmingham Magistrates' Court on May 16.

All except Mr Hubball hold senior directorships in the companies. Mr Hubball was formerly joint deputy managing director of C. Bryant & Sons before moving to another construction company at Loughborough four years ago.

According to figures released more than two years ago by Birmingham corporation the value of contracts the city had let to C. Bryant & Sons between 1961 and 1972 totalled £21.1m. The group has nearly 50 associated and subsidiary companies and last year made a profit of £2.3m on a turnover of £60m.

New rules to
speed
planning notices

By Our Planning Reporter

New regulations intended to expedite appeals against planning enforcement notices were announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Barnett, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department of the Environment.

Enforcement notices are served by local authorities requiring alleged breaches of planning control to be remedied. Because legal issues are frequently involved, about 70 per cent of appeals are at present referred by inspectors to the Secretary of State. From April 12, appeals will no longer be reserved for decision by the Secretary of State simply because the grounds of appeal include a legal point, Mr Barnett said.

UUUC not
impressed
by offer of
more seatsBy David Leigh
Political Staff

The Prime Minister publicly offered the eight United Ulster Unionist Coalition MPs extra Northern Ireland seats yesterday afternoon but there were differences among them last night about how they should vote.

Six were planning to vote against the Government and two to abstain. The two independent Unionists also indicated that they would vote against.

Mr Callaghan's public statement was couched as something he and the Government intended to do anyway. "Irrespective of the way they vote tonight, it is my intention to refer the question of representation in Northern Ireland to a Speaker's conference", he said.

Mr Molyneux, leader of the UUUC MPs, made plain when he rose in his seat that the offer had not been enough to counteract strong pressure from the province to oppose the Government. "All our discussions were conducted on the basis that there would be no concession or sacrifice of interest on the part of either of us", he said.

There had been long and anguished debate among the Unionists, who met three times yesterday and the day before, at intervals punctuated by meetings with Mr Foot, Leader of the House, Mr Airey Neave, Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, and Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Powell and one other Unionist refused to go along with the party decision to oppose the Government, dictated more by domestic party pressure and the thinness of the Government's offer than by anything the Tories could have promised.

Unionists were pointing out last night the offer of extra seats, although representing a change in the Government's view that the province's constitution had to be settled first, was not something that could happen quickly.

The reasonableness of the Unionists' case for having extra seats seems genuinely not to have struck Mr Callaghan before the meetings of the past few days. He got on well with both Mr Molyneux and Mr Powell, and they persuaded him that the offer was worth making in any event.

TUC confidence in
government winBy Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Mr Callaghan's confidence in holding off the Conservative "no confidence" motion seemed to have communicated itself to the TUC General Council yesterday morning. Union leaders merely "nodded through" a joint TUC-Labour Party statement calling for completion of the Government's task in curbing inflation, and made only the sketchiest contingency plans "if things went wrong".

The council unanimously supported the statement and there was no discussion on it. Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said he would call an emergency session of the finance and general purposes committee (the "Inner Cabinet") should the Tory parliamentary move succeed. There was little anxiety either in the council meeting or in private exchanges afterwards about the Government's fate. That confidence was reflected in Mr Murray's remark: "I did indicate that if things went wrong, and I used that phrase merely as a matter of contingency planning, it might be necessary to say something and call the finance and general purposes committee together. I am not expecting that to happen."

Backing for
Tories in
Welsh pollFrom Trevor Fishlock
Cardiff

A large increase in support for the Conservatives in Wales and a drop in Labour and Liberal support, are revealed in an opinion poll published yesterday.

The poll, conducted for the *Western Mail*, shows a considerable swing to the Conservatives and a drop in Labour support. Support for the Liberals is shown to be halved, and the poll predicts that the Plaid Cymru vote would increase.

A thousand people, at 40 sampling points throughout Wales, were asked last Friday how they would vote at a general election. Their responses were: Labour 31 per cent (October, 1974, general election 49.5 per cent); Conservatives 35 per cent (23.9); Plaid Cymru 11 per cent (10.8); Liberal, 6 per cent (15.5). The "don't know's" totalled 17 per cent.

Asked what "things going wrong" meant, he said: "A decision by the House of Commons to evict from office a government which we in the trade union movement believe has been good for the nation and which still has further constructive work to do to build on the foundations already laid."

The response from the left wing of the Labour movement today is likely to be much more strident. A deal with the Liberals, watering down the socialist aspects of the party's 1974 election manifesto has brought forth advance criticism from, among others, Mr Ray Buckton, of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and he will not be in condemning a parliamentary accommodation with the centre.

The Government's success in holding on to office should open the way for talks with the TUC after the March 29 Budget on a further year of pay restraint. Mr Murray said yesterday that the unions remained committed to reaching agreement on continuing the social contract on the basis of the 1976 congress resolution which called for an orderly return to voluntary collective bargaining, beginning this year.

TUC voice
on taxation
demanded

By Our Labour Staff

The TUC should demand the right to be consulted on taxation policy before it agrees to any further period of wage restraint, according to a report by the Low Pay Unit, published yesterday.

Mr Christopher Pond, who wrote the report, maintains that "until the level and distribution of taxation itself is a matter of negotiation between the trade union movement and the Government free collective bargaining will remain a myth. The TUC should call for an increase in tax allowances by at least 15 per cent and a reduced rate of tax for the lower-paid."

According to the report, taxation of wage earners has increased substantially under the social contract, with inflation eroding any tax concessions offered in the last Budget. *The Wages Free Fall* (The Low Pay Unit, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 5DG, 50p).

Liberals get
support
from party
membersBy George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr Steel and his parliamentary colleagues recognized that in reaching a working arrangement with the Government they were likely to alienate some members of the Liberal Party, but last night they were not much worried about the telegrams that had been received protesting against the deal.

According to Mr Steel there was a bias in the messages in favour of an agreement, but he recognizes that if there is a strong reaction over a longer period, Mr and Mrs. other 12 Liberal MPs they have to back out of the bargain.

Mr Steel prepared the way for such collaboration at the last Liberal Party assembly in Llandudno when he got endorsement for his view that the party must face sharing responsibility in government; that the party could not for ever remain a "cosy debating society".

He is arguing with his critics that if the Liberals can go into the next election able to claim that as a "fringe" party they are able to influence a government's programme, and that they would achieve even more if they had a larger vote, they could eventually arrive at the stage where they would obtain power in their own right.

Mr Steel told those Liberals who questioned the decision that he would not have gone through with the agreement if the parliamentary party had not been unanimous. "I was prepared to split the party on this," he said one inquirer. "One" objector would have stopped the whole thing."

It was clear last night that Mr Steel would have preferred a longer period of agreed collaboration. Mr Callaghan obviously would have welcomed that. But Mr Steel found that his colleagues were not prepared to commit themselves beyond the end of the present parliamentary session.

That would have gone beyond the period in which the Liberal MPs are free to act without endorsement from a party assembly, and already there are warning signs that some sections of the party in the country are not prepared to sink their identity in a joint Labour-Liberal programme.

Mr Steel's greatest fear, he says, is that the arrangement with the Prime Minister would have split the Liberal Party. But the unity of the parliamentary party was bound to affect the country.

The Liberals at Westminster are anxious to make clear that they are not going to be influenced by the statements of Mr George de Chabris, the Canadian financier, to the effect that if the party moves into a satisfactory collaboration agreement with the Government he will withdraw his financial support.

They acknowledge that Mr de Chabris made a donation to the party funds in 1974, which reached four figures, and that he persuaded two of his business associates to give similar sums in the same year. They also admit their gratitude to him for contributing "a three-figure sum" to local Liberal associations last year.

Mr de Chabris is now, to effect, the party's landlord, because he has taken over the running of the National Liberal Club and has rented offices in the building to the party at well below the commercial rate. Since the party began its negotiations with the Government there have been two offers of "four-figure sums" which have been accepted, the Liberal leaders say.

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in £14 million
Bodyswapping ring

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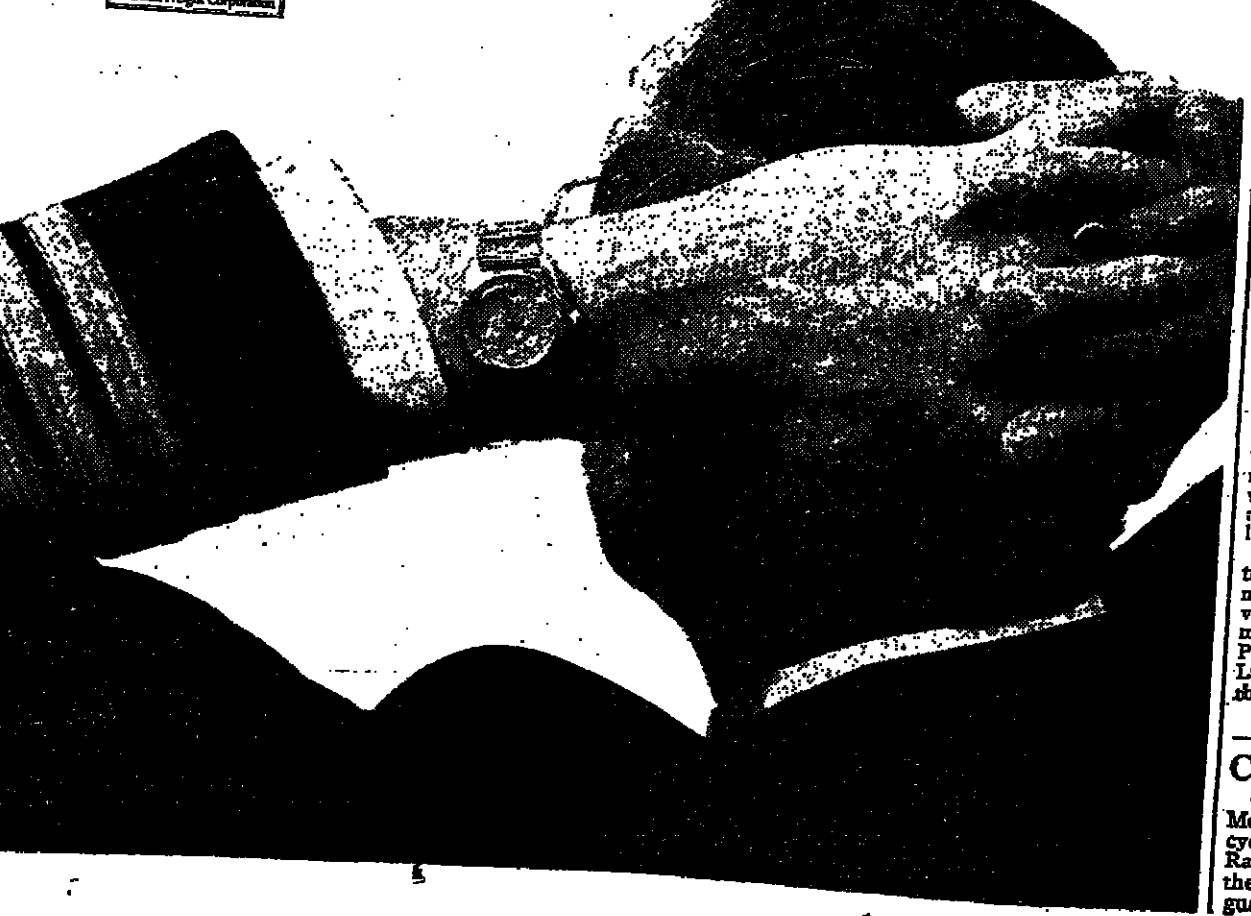
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Three groups
of protesters
at Labour HQ

Three separate groups of protesters, including the Labour Party and the Transport and General Workers' Union, disrupted work and interrupted meetings at Labour HQ yesterday.

The first arrivals were about 100 protesters who took over the first floor. They took over from 8.30 am and, two hours later, a group of about 200 protesters arrived, claiming that they received about £525 a week less than men doing the same job.

The women are among 400 who have been on strike for about six weeks. Mrs Joyce Gae, their leader, of St Mary's, Crescend, Pinner, said: "We will not budge from here until we see someone from the TGWU. We are engaged in a struggle, a fight with the management, with the union, which has done nothing for us, and with our own male colleagues."

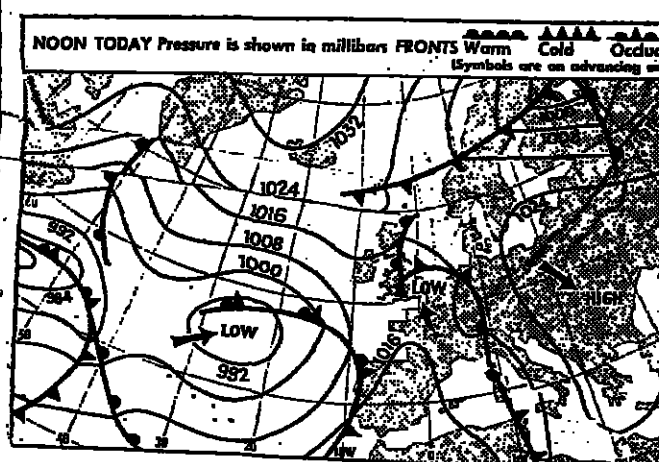
The women took over the top-floor board room at about midday, and were only just prevented from intruding into the monthly meeting of the Labour Party National Executive Committee. Last night they were still inside the building.

Students warned, page 20

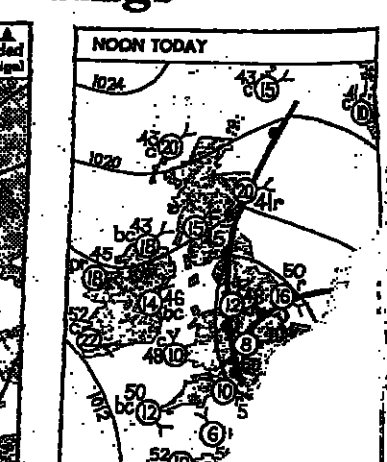
Cycle fatigue fault

Owners of more than 20,000 Moulton "Mini" and "Mid" cycles are urged to consult the Raleigh Cycle Company after the discovery of a metal fatigue fault in some frames.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises 6.55 am, sets 7.20 pm. Moon rises 1.29 am, sets 12.25 am tomorrow.
First quarter: March 27.
Landing up: 7.30 pm to 6.22 am.
Night water: London, 5.19 am, 7.1m (23.3ft); 5.38 pm, 7.0m (22.8ft).
Brighton, 10.44 am, 1.3m (4.4ft); 10.44 am, 1.3m (4.4ft).
Dover, 2.13 am, 12.3m (40.3ft); 2.35 pm, 6.3m (20.6ft).
9.44 pm, 6.8m (22.4ft).
2.31 am, 8.7m (28.5ft); 2.45 pm, 8.4m (27.5ft).
A depression will move slowly from France with associated troughs of low pressure moving N across many districts.
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, East Angles, SE, central S England, E Midlands: Mostly cloudy; rain in places, gradually becoming heavy with thunder, wind S, becoming SW moderate; max temp 8°C (46°F).
Channel Islands, SW: S Wales: Cloudy, hill fog, prob. brighter later; occasional rain, becoming showery; wind N.



Tomorrow
Sun rises 6.55 am, sets 7.20 pm. Moon rises 1.29 am, sets 12.25 am tomorrow.
First quarter: March 27.
Landing up: 7.30 pm to 6.22 am.
Night water: London, 5.19 am, 7.1m (23.3ft); 5.38 pm, 7.0m (22.8ft).
Brighton, 10.44 am, 1.3m (4.4ft); 10.44 am, 1.3m (4.4ft).
Dover, 2.13 am, 12.3m (40.3ft); 2.35 pm, 6.3m (20.6ft).
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Channel Islands, SW: S Wales: Cloudy, hill fog, prob. brighter later; occasional rain, becoming showery; wind N.

Weather reports yesterday:
Midday: c, cloudy; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; w, wind.

OVERSEAS



The Amnesty report is discussed at a press conference yesterday by Lord Avebury, left, Mr. Martin Ennals, Amnesty secretary-general, Señor Maximo Pedro Victoria, a former nuclear scientist, Miss Patricia Feeney and Señor Enrique Rodríguez Larreta.

Argentine population terrorized, Amnesty says

By David Watts
Argentina has become "a brutal and oppressive police state" where the laws are systematically violated by the power of the state, according to Lord Avebury, chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee.

The population is terrorized and millions of people go in fear of their lives while institutions such as the Federation of Lawyers are powerless to remedy the situation.

Lord Avebury led an Amnesty International mission to Argentina last year to inquire into the deteriorating human rights situation and the detention, without charge or trial, of an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 political prisoners. Up to 5,000 other people are said to have disappeared since the coup which brought General Jorge Videla to power a year ago.

Presenting its 52-page report

yesterday at a press conference, Amnesty International called on the Argentine Government to invite the United Nations to send a mission to investigate its allegations; to publish a full list of its prisoners; to investigate the disappearances, including more than 300 listed by name in the report, and to seek that full protection is afforded to political refugees from other Latin American countries now in Argentina.

Lord Avebury undertook the mission with Father Robert Drinan, a Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives, and Miss Patricia Feeney, a member of the International Secretariat of Amnesty International.

The report was presented to the Argentine Government on February 22. Yesterday the Argentine embassy in London said in a statement: "Notwithstanding the lack of veracity and objectivity of the report

and in spite of the aggressive terms in which it is written, the Argentine Government, bearing in mind the humanitarian aims which Amnesty International is said to defend, has these comments:

"The report contains lengthy accusations supported by hearsay 'evidence' based on subjective representations. On the other hand, the fact that the report mentions in less than four lines the atrocities carried out by terrorist groups, a condemnation which Amnesty International does not even take up directly, causes concern.

"The Argentine Government rejects the report on account of the rash statements it contains and deplores that it facilitates co-ordinated demonstrations by activist groups and minorities that try to mould public opinion for ideological reasons."

An Amnesty spokesman denied that it had ignored the

activities of groups opposing the Government with violence, drawing attention to two pages of details of kidnappings and murders of officials during 1976.

The report gives evidence of widespread torture of detainees and supports claims that political refugees fleeing to Argentina are not safe from the attentions of the local paramilitary organizations or from pursuit and persecution from their own governments.

Evidence of this was given to the press conference by Señor Enrique Rodríguez Larreta, a Uruguayan journalist, who went to Buenos Aires in search of his son, another journalist, who had disappeared. Señor Larreta was arrested and tortured during detention at a private house in the city where he witnessed the death of at least one detainee under torture.

Mr Vorster withdraws press control Bill

From Our Correspondent
Cape Town, March 23

After talks spread over three days with South African newspaper owners, Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, announced tonight that the Government is to withdraw the Bill which provides for statutory control of the press.

In a statement in the House of Assembly, Mr Vorster said the Newspaper Press Union (NPU), which represents the newspaper proprietors, would be given a year to test its own voluntary self-disciplinary measures.

Mr Vorster's Bill, which was widely regarded in South Africa and abroad as a threat to the freedom of the press, provided for a statutory press code enforced by a press council, with legal powers to fine newspapers and journalists.

Journalists and editors who refused to submit to its jurisdiction would face jail. The NPU has argued that its own voluntary code and Press Council, which has powers to fine newspapers up to 10,000 rands (about £5,500) is adequate to maintain decent standards. Mr Vorster said tonight that

the Government had decided to give the NPU one year "to discipline itself effectively" under its own Press Council and code. On the suggestion of the NPU, the Government has also decided to institute a press secretariat, attached to the Department of the Prime Minister for liaison with the press and to deal with press matters and complaints.

Full details of the press code and council of the NPU and other related information would be published soon, including the address of the office and the manner in which complaints could be lodged.

Mr Vorster said his statement had been cleared in full with the NPU.

The statement has been welcomed by journalists as removing the immediate threat of statutory press control. But it is noted that the Bill remains as a Damoclean sword. It could be reintroduced in the Assembly in a year's time if Mr Vorster is not satisfied with the performance of newspapers in the intervening period.

It was also not immediately clear how the proposed press secretariat would function.

Queen at Port Moresby

Port Moresby, March 23.—The tropical rains of the wet season gave way to brilliant sunshine today as the Queen arrived in Port Moresby on a visit to Papua New Guinea.

About 15,000 people packed the airport to greet the Queen. There were cheers as she walked from the aircraft down a red carpet lined with school-children wearing African-style robes in brilliant colours. There was a shout from the midst of the crowd: "We wel-

come the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh—we want Michael Somare to resign as Prime Minister."

Tomorrow the Queen has a full programme in Port Moresby, with a people's welcome at a sports stadium, lunch with members of the Government, an inspection of the new National Museum, and a state dinner.

On Friday she will be flown to Popondeta and Alotau, in eastern Papua, and on Saturday morning she leaves for Darwin. —Reuters.

Dr Owen and Russian envoy discuss détente

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent
Mr Nikolai Lunov, the Soviet Ambassador in London, paid his first call on Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday. The main subject discussed was détente, and the coming conference in Belgrade to review the Helsinki agreements on security and human rights.

The Soviet leadership is becoming increasingly concerned at Western declarations of support for human rights, arguing that "interference" in other countries' internal affairs risks upsetting the whole movement towards détente. Dr Owen's strong stand on the issue has been particularly noted.

While Dr Owen has emphasized that the need for greater military confidence lies at the core of détente, he has insisted that the human dimension must be brought in, too. The Warsaw Pact countries, in his view, still have much ground to make up in implementing the Helsinki agreements.

"We are determined to encourage the free movement of people and ideas and respect for human rights", Dr Owen remarked recently, setting out his overall policy. "Without these we cannot hope for peace and stability in the longer term."

He also made the point that Britain would take a stand on human rights in every corner of the globe, without discrimination. "We will apply the same standards and judgments to Communist countries as we do to Chile, Uganda and South Africa".

While recognizing that human rights were only one strand in the complex of East-West relations, Dr Owen said that communist countries must accept that concern for human rights was not a diversionary tactic, but an integral part of foreign policy in the Western democracies.

More widely, Dr Owen believes that the first and easier stage of détente is over. The issues which are today on the agenda are more complex, more contentious and far more intractable.

This makes it all the more important, he believes, that both sides should be realistic. "Détente on its own could not, and was never intended, to stop the Soviet Union from being a world power, still less to convert the Russians and their allies from communism. Any idea that détente could or should have reversed this process is absurd."

The need was to refine still further the techniques for managing 'crises' between East and West.

Carter open debate offer to Moscow

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, March 23

President Carter would be delighted to open a debate with the Soviet Union on moral principles and human rights in the two countries, the White House said last night.

A spokesman said: "We do not fear open debate about the principles that guide our respective societies before the court of world opinion. We do not object to Soviet comments on differences within our own country."

They would not allow "this open and healthy debate" to impede their desire to negotiate reducing the burden of the arms race "the real threat of nuclear destruction".

Moscow, March 23.—An *Izvestia* commentator said tonight that President Carter's stand on human rights had "complicated the climate" for talks with Mr Gorbachev, the American Secretary of State, in Moscow next week on arms limitation and other issues. —Reuters.

New Haig warning on Russia

By a Staff Reporter

General Alexander Haig, Nato Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, yesterday renewed his warning about the "relentless growth" of Soviet military strength. The defence industry in the Soviet Union had been propelled to a status today which was unimaginable a decade ago, he said.

General Haig, speaking at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, said the Soviet military build-up was both offensive in character and global in scope and could provide "the underpinning for an imperialistic phase of Soviet foreign policy should they decide to launch one."

The Soviet defence industry was now capable of producing 1,000 fighter aircraft a year and its tank production capability had moved to a point where by 1980 it could provide about 4,000 modern tanks every year. General Haig added that the West was losing its "quality superiority" in armaments.

British left backs Prague human rights movement

Broad sections of the British left yesterday declared support for Charter 77, the Czechoslovak human rights manifesto.

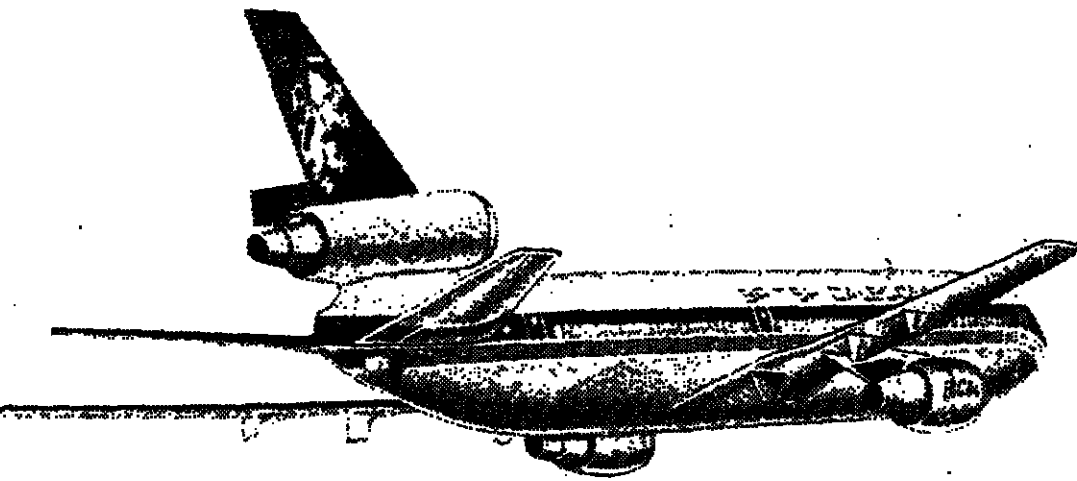
The British Communist Party, however, turned down an invitation to provide a speaker for a public meeting in London, and instead sent a written message. It reiterated a statement of its political committee which noted that "people who have a different point of view on the development of socialism from that of the Czechoslovak authorities are denied any means of expressing it in the Czechoslovak press, and are then attacked when they seek other means of making their views known."

The message called for an end to harassment of the signatories of the charter and urged the release of people detained without charges.

Yesterday's meeting, at the headquarters of the National Union of Railwaymen, was initiated by the Committee to Defend Czechoslovak Socialists.

It was sponsored by, among others, the Labour Party, the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, Clause Four, the Committee in Defence of Soviet Political Prisoners, Critique, the International Marxist Group, the editorial board of *Left*, the national organization of Labour Students, Natopa, the print union, the Plastic People Defence Fund, the SOAS Students' Union, and the Socialist Workers' Party.

The meeting was in response to an appeal from Charter 77 for support from labour movements throughout the world.



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HOME NEWS

Universities in need of 'longer horizon' for financial planning

By Frances Gibb, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

A call for the restoration of universities' long-term system of financing is made in the University Grants Committee's annual report for 1975-76, published yesterday.

That system of financing, which permitted long-term planning, had been seriously damaged by successive short-term decisions related to changing national priorities, it says. "As a result there is a deep and damaging sense of uncertainty which can only be removed by the restoration of a longer planning horizon."

The absence of any clear basis for forward planning, on the other hand, has led to a severe decline in the value of universities' income, which had fallen by about 13 per cent per student between 1972 and 1977. The economic difficulties of the country had to be acknowledged, but had it not been for the restraint placed on the growth of academic staff salaries much higher grants would have been needed to maintain the same level of activity.

The university system remained a good one, however. On the whole the past decade had produced impressive facilities, and the standard of the first degree remained competitive with those elsewhere in the world, although achieved in a shorter time than in most places. Consequently the cost of the degree for each student, bearing in mind the low wage rates, was low.

"The attitude of students

whom we have met has been strongly identified with their universities and their studies", the report says.

Staff were facing economies with determination that the university purpose should survive, and new initiatives emerged even though they had to be at the expense of sacrifices elsewhere.

At the same time, however, the year had seen an end to the process of growth that had continued for about 20 years and was unlikely soon to be resumed. The capital building grant was the lowest in terms of money for 20 years, and probably in real terms since the 1930s.

Much of the committee's time during the year was taken up with the needs of medicine and engineering, both because they were national priorities and because of the large part, perhaps 40 per cent of the total, of university expenditure they claimed.

In medicine, the proportion of women applicants and entrants continued to grow. In 1972-73 they formed 28.4 per cent of total applicants, and 32.4 per cent of entrants, compared with 30.4 per cent and 35.1 per cent respectively last year.

Number of nurses at Scots hospital 'inadequate'

The number of nurses at Scotland's security mental hospital at Carstairs, Strathclyde, where three men died after an escape attempt by two patients last November, was inadequate, the head of nursing staff told the public inquiry at Lismark yesterday.

Mr Thomas Oswald, aged 53, a divisional officer, said the hospital was short of staff nurses, particularly in the night. He called for changes in the management structure and said he would like greater disciplinary powers.

Mr Oswald was one of four senior members of the staff who were locked out of the hospital by employees after the patients had escaped on November 30. The patients,

Robert Moore, aged 28, and Thomas McCulloch, aged 26, killed a nursing officer, another patient and a policeman.

Mr Oswald said nurses were working 24-hour shifts, and they could not be reduced without an increase in staff.

"To meet our commitments that nursing staff is inadequate," he said.

Mr Oswald said he would prefer to see an independent committee of the hospital management rather than an official of the Scottish Home and Health Department. He would also prefer an independent nursing voice on the committee rather than a department official with nursing experience.

'Unscrewing of nut led to fatal fire in warship'

From Our Correspondent - Portsmouth

A young sailor unscrewing a nut in the engine room started a fire on board the frigate Astute that killed three men, according to evidence at an inquest at Gosport, Hampshire, yesterday.

Mr Michael Baker, the South-east Hampshire Coroner, recorded verdicts of accidental death on Timothy Burton, of Portsmouth; James Wardle, of Carlisle; and David Little, of Sunderland.

Engine Room Mechanic Christopher Griffiths, aged 19, of Liverpool, said he was trying to replace a broken thermometer on an electricity generator. There was a spurt of oil, he said. "I tried to stop it but the pressure drove me back. It hit one of the pipes on the deckhead. I grabbed the extinguisher by the ladder but I could not use it. My eyes were stinging because of the oil."

Further attempts to extinguish the flames with hand extinguishers failed and within a few seconds the whole area was full of flames and dense smoke.

Fire parties had to cool adjoining compartments with water to prevent flames from spreading to the rest of the ship. Some of the crew opened a boiler room escape hatch but the heat was too intense and the smoke too thick for anyone to go in after the three men.

After half an hour the captain gave orders for the boiler room to be sealed and flooded with high temperature steam to extinguish the fire. The flames were still so thick that the crew had to wear breathing sets for the job.

Afterwards the three bodies were found huddled together almost underneath an escape hatch. Pathologists said they had died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The coroner said: "Death would have been very quick. I am satisfied that the steam drenching took place well after these men had died. Griffiths was unable to stop the fire. I am satisfied that the action he took, in unscrewing the nut, was not one he had been instructed to do. He did it I am sure, with the best of intentions but it was something he ought not to have done."

Canal nature reserve

The southern section of the Cromford Canal in Derbyshire, is to be declared an aquatic nature reserve. It will be managed jointly by Derbyshire County Council and the Derbyshire Naturalists' Trust.



Printing exhibition: Mr Harold Macmillan, with Lord Salisbury, after opening an exhibition entitled "Goodly prying—from goose-quill to computer" at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, yesterday. It will be open to the public from tomorrow. Diary, page 18.

Budget Day ruling in pension test case

By Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent

Judgment has been reserved until next Tuesday, Budget Day, in a High Court case in which three pensioners are challenging the way the Government increased pensions and other social security benefits last November.

The Budget is not now expected to contain an announcement about the next increase in pensions, although the Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely to refer to the Government's legal obligation to raise them in November.

The case affects benefits paid to about 12 million people and will test the legality of the Government's method of calculating inflation for the purpose of increasing the benefits. The pensioners argue that the Government should have used the traditional method of compensating for past inflation, which would have cost £500m more than the Government's system of forecasting inflation ahead.

Although the Chancellor is not expected to announce the new rates on Tuesday it is understood that the Government has decided to forecast ahead again this year unless judgment is given against it. That would mean measuring the way earnings and prices have risen since last November, and forecasting how much they would move by November this year.

Because the Government hopes to use the forecasting method again, it has decided to leave work on the review of the level of benefits until the last possible moment so that the latest figures can be included.

An announcement is likely to be made in May, which will still give staff enough time to implement the new rates, an exercise that normally takes at least 22 weeks.

In the High Court yesterday Mr Alistair Dawson, QC, said retirement pensions had dropped in real value because the Secretary of State for Social Services had adopted "an element of inflation forecasting" in assessing increases. As a result, he said, the pension increase last year did not take into account the extent of inflation between April and November, 1975.

In the test case brought by three pensioners backed by the Child Poverty Action Group, Sir Robert Megarry, the Vice-Chancellor, is being asked for declarations that could have the effect of uprating pensions and social security benefits.

The three maintain that if the April-November, 1975, period had been included pensions should have risen by 22 per cent last November, instead of the 15 per cent increase granted, which took the pension to £15.30.

Mr Dawson said that under section 124 of the Social Security Act, 1975, the Secretary of State had a general power to raise, but not to diminish, the amount of benefits received under the Act. Under section 125 the Minister had a duty to review the amounts annually and, if they had lost real value, to uprate them to restore their real value.

The Minister had made a forecast and the "forecast period of his so-called review

A chapter of nuclear history closes at Dounreay

From Pearce Wright Science Editor

Dounreay, Caithness

The immense sphere of the experimental atomic reactor, at Dounreay, which has been a symbol of the nuclear age for 20 years, will no longer produce energy.

At a ceremony presided over by Lord Hinton of Bankside, a former member of the board of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and former chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board and Sir John Hill, chairman of the UKAEA, the Dounreay fast reactor (DFR) was shut down.

The huge construction, described as "a dome of discovery" during the parliamentary debate granting permission for its building in 1954, will continue to brood over the Scottish landscape for many years.

Although it will be retained as a monument of industrial archaeology it will be unsafe to dismantle for many years until radioactive contamination has been dispersed.

Today it is also a symbol of the controversy over whether techniques developed in that experimental fast-breeder reactor should be exploited in the first commercial fast reactor (CFR-1) power station at an estimated cost of £1,500m.

Since the long-term future of the UKAEA is tied to development of this new generation of nuclear station, Lord Hinton and Sir John pressed hard the case for such a project.

Lord Hinton said the Dounreay fast reactor was built to determine whether such a system was controllable, to develop fuel elements for industrial reactors and to give experience in the handling of liquid, metal coolants. Fast

breeder reactors are cooled by liquid sodium.

The project has cost £83m and the reactor has done everything intended as a design experiment. It has earned £5.5m in foreign currency in experiments in irradiation for overseas countries and supplied 600m units of electricity to the national grid.

Lord Hinton acknowledged that many lessons had been learnt from the experimental reactor and its successor here, the prototype Fast Reactor. He said: "Most of the mistakes, and fortunately they have been rectifiable, on PFR have been made because engineers have thought that they were just their little bit more clever than any of us really are."

The authority had learnt lessons from those mistakes to be able to design a large fast reactor that was safe and reliable. He believed that plans

for such a large reactor could be started not later than the end of this year, with the aim of commissioning it by 1985.

Fast-breeder reactors were urgently needed, he said and neither the Government nor the people should be discouraged by the dreadful hesitancy of the Flowers' report on nuclear energy from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

Sir John said: "I believe that many people are worried about fast reactors because they have been given the impression that they have just been discovered, whereas Dounreay has been operating for nearly 20 years without health hazards."

He said the local community wanted a decision from the Government in favour of building a commercial-size fast reactor. The Highland Regional Council was to put its case to

both Houses of Parliament later this month.

Bishop's alarm: The recent six-week strike at the Windscale nuclear plant in Cumbria gave rise to serious questions about what might happen if Britain became heavily dependent on fast-breeder nuclear reactors, the Bishop of Kingston upon Thames, Dr Montefiore, said yesterday.

Events during the strike, when pickets turned away nitrogen, said to be essential to the safety of the plant, had deeply moved him, the bishop said.

He was speaking at a press conference to launch a transcript of last November's British Council of Churches hearings on whether Britain should proceed with fast breeders.

Nuclear Crisis: A Question of Breeding, edited by Dr David Grist and Dr Hugh Montefiore (Prism Press, £2.50).

Guide to take the strain out of Strine

By Philip Howard

The first authoritative dictionary of modern Strine (which defines as Australian English, especially the speech of the uneducated) is published today by the Oxford University Press.

It is an invaluable guide to one of the fastest growing and most imaginative dialects of the great English-speaking world. Its need has long been felt both by Australians and by those who wish to understand Australians, whose symbolic anti-spokenman was Barry Mackenzie in *Private Eye*.

Strine originally meant the comic, tongue-in-cheek, educated Australian speech, for example "terrace house" to mean "terrace house". It is now taken to mean the lingo of ockerism (aggressively Australian nationalism, speech and behaviour as evidenced, for example, by Mr Gough Whitlam).

The dictionary was edited by the late Professor Grahame Johnston, of the Australian National University. It is an indispensable volume for explorers of Earle Court and Australian literature as well as Sydney and Adelaide.

The Australian Pocket Oxford Dictionary, edited by Grahame Johnston, OBE, £2.50.

Conversation piece, page 18

Cricket clubs to create jobs

Northumberland county cricket ground at Newcastle upon Tyne is to be improved through the Manpower Services Commission's job-creation programme.

The commission has agreed to pay the county club about £14,000 towards the cost of employing up to 25 out-of-work craftsmen and labourers, including youngsters. They will renew seating, repair fences and build a scoreboard, press box and cafeteria.

Yorkshire miners dismiss their historian

From Ronald Kershaw Leeds

The executive of the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers has disagreed with the way a Leeds University researcher interpreted parts of Yorkshire's mining history and have told him that it does not wish him to be the author of volume 2 of *The History of the Yorkshire Miners*.

Dr Robert Neville submitted a sample chapter covering the 1893 lock-out and the Featherstone "massacre". The lock-out brought the Yorkshire colliery to a standstill when miners protested at proposals to cut their wages by a quarter. The "massacre" of September 7, 1893, occurred when troops fired on rioting miners at Acton Hall colliery,

Bank union wants security review

By Christopher Thomas Labour Reporter

Bank workers' leaders are demanding a review of security arrangements after the death of two cashiers in a bank raid at a small branch at Prestbury, Cheshire, last month.

The executive of the National Union of Bank Employees yesterday insisted growing concern for the safety of bank employees. It is calling for discussions with banks on whether a staff of perhaps only two young people at small branches is sufficient.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary, said: "We are going to suggest as a basis of discussion that there should be more senior people in charge of sub-branches and that perhaps at least three people should be employed in them."

Posters in Welsh for anti-rabies campaign

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Posters in Welsh have been added to the armory of tranquilizers, nets and dart guns that the Government has assembled in case of an outbreak of rabies in Britain.

"Would you believe it, we are also looking at blowpipes," Mr J. G. Loxham, regional veterinary officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday.

"It is possible to put a blowpipe dart into a cat through a letterbox," he said. He was speaking at a press conference at which the Government opened its anti-rabies campaign for the holiday season. The British Isles form one of the few areas of the world that are free of the disease, which in man is fatal and agonizing.

The heading, "Rabies is a Killer" is reproduced on the Welsh poster as "Mae'r Gynddardd yn Llaid". Mr Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry,

accepted that those who could read a Welsh poster would understand an English one as well.

"This was a Welsh Office suggestion," he said. "I think there is quite an issue here which we have decided to be allowed to dominate this press conference." The Welsh Office in London said later that the posters were needed to address the farmers and farmworkers of rural Wales in their first language.

"We are in the business of winning friends and influencing people," an official added. "The decision to issue a poster in Welsh was not a result of pressure from outside."

Mr Strang said that there were 125 prosecutions under rabies regulations in Britain last year, of which all but six were in England and Wales. The average size of fine imposed was rising steadily. "I am confident of our ability to meet and to deal with any likely outbreak quickly."

suggestion was not adopted by the executive.

After the killing of a clerk at Barclays Bank at Ham, near Richmond upon Thames, in November the union has been discussing with banks the possibility of installing bullet-proof glass at counters and generally improving alarm systems, possibly involving the use of surveillance cameras inside branches.

Mr Mills said: "The number of bank raids in England and Wales in the last year was smaller than in the previous year, but the number was up in the Scottish clearers."

The TUC has asked health service unions to provide details of assaults on members so that case studies can be sent to the Department of Health and Social Security.

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Dismissal for strikers who held up drugs

Thirty strikers who prevented drug supplies from reaching seriously handicapped children in the Manor Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, were dismissed yesterday.

The drugs and other supplies were halted by pickets from the Transport and General Workers' Union at the gates of the hospital and other establishments. Manor Hospital has about 900 mentally handicapped patients, fifty of them children. Officials said yesterday that the drugs were vital to the treatment of the children.

"If they are withheld or delayed the children can easily become disturbed."

The pickets were acting in support of a demand by union members to choose their own rotas. The dispute has been going on for three weeks.

Collared dove no longer protected

The Home Secretary, on the advice of the Advisory Committee on the Protection of Birds for England and Wales, has made an order removing the protection enjoyed by the collared dove.

From April 1 the collared dove may be killed or taken at any time by authorized persons. The action has been taken in response to representations from local authorities and farmers who crops and property have suffered as a result of the bird's activities.

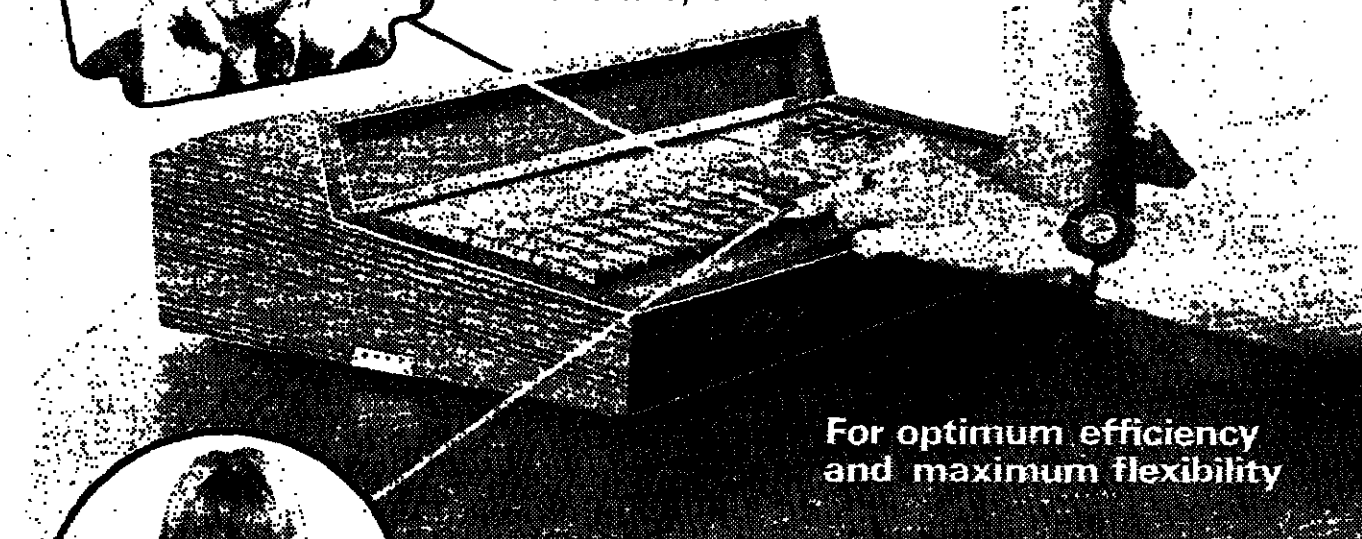
Vehicle licences

The transferring of vehicle records to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre, Swansea, is to be speeded. New arrangements will start with renewals of licences on April 1, when details of vehicles not so far recorded at Swansea will be transferred if a licence is being taken out for 12 months.

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THORN ERICSSON



PARLIAMENT, March 23, 1977

Wheeling and dealing is no substitute for political courage

House of Commons

Not only were the Government in a minority but the Labour Party was a meaningless coalition of deeply divided and mutually distrustful factions. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C), said in opening the debate on the Budget that the Prime Minister, she declared, was an expert in political wheeling and dealing but was no substitute for political courage. She called on Mr Callaghan to face the people's verdict and, like a statesman, face it now.

Mr Thatcher moved to loud cheers from Conservative backbenchers: "That this House has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government."

She said the Prime Minister made it inevitable that this motion would be moved, first when he dissolved the vote on his own party's proposals last Thursday and, secondly, when, unlike his predecessor, he refused to put down a motion in his own name to confirm confidence in his own Government.

On Friday we watched with great interest the performance of the Prime Minister on television. He came out with some good veneer (Labour laughter). But he came out with some interesting phrases. One in particular is that "resistance is not necessarily governing. He went on to say: "We govern as of right" (Labour cheers).

By what right? The right of a minority government, the right of a supposed mandate based on 38 per cent of the votes or 29 per cent of the electorate? Or the right, except the arrogant right of socialism.

The fact is that the Government have no credible mandate.

Last night on television the Prime Minister said: "It is no use using the general of an army which does not follow you. It is Laughton's sheep do not usually need generals."

Unless there was an election there would be a period of great uncertainty. Whatever regulations the Prime Minister might make, he never be sure he would either get his legislation or economic proposals through.

He could not even be certain of getting the Budget through because he would have to wheel and deal within the party and some things would be acceptable and some would not.

Of course wheeling and dealing was not unusual for the Prime Minister, that is what he did in the ordinary business of this Government had been conducted.

We remember (she went on) the resignation speech in the House of Commons when he said: "Too often we have made key decisions as a reaction to pressure rather than on the merits of the case."

Now we find the Prime Minister, creeping cravenly around, putting both ways of his party up for auction at the hands of the opposition.

Mr Thatcher said he was thinking of forming a coalition administration, would she have joined the Cabinet or stayed out?

Mrs Thatcher—Perhaps he would like me to read him our manifesto on the subject. (Labour shouts of "Answer.") Mr Thatcher, unlike the Prime Minister, who goes against his manifesto, after election we would consult and confer with the leaders of all other parties and leaders of the Opposition.

Mr Thatcher was acting in accordance with his manifesto, the Prime Minister had been acting flatly in the face of everything he said. (Renewed Conservative cheers.)

He is a Jim of all parties (she said) and master of none. (Labour protests.)

The truth about this Government was that no make-do-and-mend, no patchwork quilt of bargains, could ever have held this Government together. (Renewed Conservative cheers.)

Not only were the Government in a minority, and the Labour Party itself was a meaningless coalition in which the deeply divided and mutually distrustful factions prevented each other from governing.

One of the wings of the Labour Party believed in the mixed economy and tried to make it work, albeit at a high price, the other of the wings wanted to destroy the capitalist system completely.

The economic and political system of the Government went very far. After three years of Labour speed-up, they were now back to back. (Conservative cheers.)

After three years, the level of production was scarcely above the level of 1974.

That was in spite of having nearly doubled public expenditure and having increased direct taxation to try to finance the level of public expenditure. Unemployment was almost double.

When they regarded socialism by its economic record or by its other record in practice, it had totally failed. (Conservative cheers.)

Labour-Liberal experiment on consultation for rest of session

Mr James Callaghan, Prime Minister (Cardiff, South-East, Lab), said he listened to Mrs Thatcher's essay with considerable interest. It was a series of generalizations, which while interesting, were perhaps not altogether novel.

As her complaint against me and against the Government was almost overwhelmed (he said), I felt like repeating the immortal words of A. A. Milne: "If she stops talking, I shall tell her the truth about her." (Labour laughter.)

He did not find in the series of generalizations to which the House was treated any particular thread which led him to discover how Conservatives would deal with the issues of the day.

Those who were not blind followers of Mrs Thatcher and who might have been tempted to vote for her before they voted tonight, ought to consider what it was they were going to vote for.

The world economy was still in a precarious state and wrong decisions internationally could have serious effects on the United Kingdom economy but on more vulnerable countries who were less developed.

What kind of future are we offering to young people in our western industrialized countries if we are to tolerate these levels of unemployment and stagnation?

At the same time it will be vital, when we meet in May, to seek new ways to help the less developed countries overcome their balance of payments problems caused by increases in the price of oil.

As for Britain, which could not be isolated or insulated from the rest of the world, especially with world oil costs continuing to rise at the rate of 30 million tons a year, about one-third of their requirements was a picture of some industrialized country.

That was receiving endorsement from authoritative commentators throughout the world.

The industrial strategy is not a strategy of the Government as it is a strategy of the country. It is the joint strategy which has the vital backing of the TUC and the CBI. So when she attacks the industrial strategy, she is attacking the Government, as she seems to think, but an agreed policy between these three major elements.

The industrial strategy is blessed by both representatives of labour and management in industry. What we need is a new industrial Bill. The new policy would be based on profit margin control, subject to safeguards or firms in manufacturing services and distribution.

What would the Opposition do about the selective funds going to vital industries such as machine tools, machinery, or foundries, or electronic components?

We know what Sir Keith Joseph would do (he said). He would have them out on the stones. That is what he would do.

Sir Keith Joseph (Leeds, North-East, C)—From where is the money this Government are spending to sustain some industries by stopping them from being destroyed by other jobs, by over taxation, over borrowing and printing money? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—Did I hear him say "printing money"? (Labour laughter.) I have always known him to be an honest man, always to be honest about his own money. What has he to say for himself?

Printing money? (Conservative laughter.) I would sooner that taxation was a little higher and 200,000 people were kept in unemployment than a policy of abolishing all subsidies and putting men on the dole.

He had hoped that Mrs Thatcher would have stuck out as her leading spokesman was opposed to this, what she would put in place of it, and what she would do to create jobs. Would she give a subsidy? These were the questions people would be asking, and they would have no idea what Conservative policy would be in any of those areas.

Prices were one of the key issues. Last year they had had success with the cooperation of the trade unions and inflation had gone down to less than 10 per cent. Then (he said) it is right that the country should know the reasons for this and what the Government intend to try to ensure that it does not recur.

Last summer when the pound had come under heavy pressure in the currency markets of the world, sterling prices of British imports rose and they were still seeing the effects, although the value of the pound would still be more months before the benefits of the stable pound were seen in the shops but they were already coming through the price of goods.

The latest forecasts indicated a good prospect that by the end of this year inflation would be below the 15 per cent estimated last year. The forecast published by the O.E.C.D. last week predicted that the rise would be below 12 per cent at an annual rate by the second half of this year.

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House of Lords

The economic stability and prosperity this country has enjoyed since the end of the second world war has been achieved by a long-term stabilization and recovery programme, Lord Hailsham said in opening a debate on the subject.

He said no such programme could endure or work unless the main political parties, the Conservative Party and the Labour Party, agreed on its main points and cooperated to ensure its success. There must be the same sort of consensus as there was about Europe, Nato, agriculture, or even Northern Ireland.

The Earl of Gowrie, for the Opposition, said this evening the Conservative Party had been asked to abandon socialism. They were reducing or pretending to reduce taxation, cutting down public sector borrowing requirements, imposing cash ceilings and dropping £5,000 of central expenditure.

They were behaving like the working classes, that well known scourge of the Conservative Party, Mrs Thatcher. The Government was implementing Tory policies and the support of Liberals and Ulster Unionists to do so.

We need a government (he said) and at present it could only be a government of the few, prepared to give more choice and control of expenditure to the individual wage earner.

Conservative policy at national level had been developed through the social contract. The social agreement with the unions had been developed through the social contract. There had been widespread acceptance of a pay policy.

They were on the right path. The price level was rising, but not too fast, improvement in net exports, and increased industrial investment. The concept of industrial democracy, which it was finally settled, after further discussions, would help to further the social contract.

The representation of the Conservative Party in the House of Commons (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill was read the third time and passed.

House adjourned, 7.47 pm.

Period of stability in national interest: Government win by 24

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk, Lib), said he listened to Mrs Thatcher's essay with considerable interest. It was a series of generalizations, which while interesting, were perhaps not altogether novel.

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Parliamentary notices

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Only 15 MP's support censure motion on EEC Commission

European Parliament

Unless the European Community could get the dairy sector properly balanced, Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission said, he feared for the future of the common agricultural policy.

He was replying for the Commission to a motion of censure by the European Progressive Democratic Group, which had been introduced for its recent handling of subsidized butter sales to the Soviet Union.

Moving the motion, M Michel Colinet (France, Dep), said the group had hesitated because no censure motion had ever been introduced in the Parliament, but the Commission had adopted a posture which jeopardized the CAP and the balance of powers and responsibilities between the Council, the Commission and Parliament. The motion was their only power to express disapproval.

For two years (he said), we have let things build up without trying to do anything effective. We have exported stocks of butter and milk powder. The Commission has been careless in suspending the guarantees for subsidies they are providing the marketing of the products in the world market.

The Commission has adopted a political posture and does not have the right.

We are not prepared to accept the situation of Parliament's powers, particularly when everyone is calling for the strengthening of our powers.

Mr Kory Nyberg (Denmark, Dep) said the Commission's population feared the Commission was developing into a supra-national government. It could not be allowed to get political power it was not supposed to have.

Mr Jenkins denied the allegation that the Commission's measures were not founded on any legal basis. Their decision was based on various regulations. In cases of extreme urgency the Commission could decide on the basis of information available to suspend preferential for a maximum of three days.

But the main thrust of the censure motion was not against the legality of the Commission's action. It was rather the view that they should not have intervened to give time for a pause for reflection and to monitor the flow of exports. It was the view that they should not have intervened in the export market but should rather have held back and permitted unlimited quantities of butter to be preferred for export.

Such a view (he said) implies that we should have given absolute priority to subsidized exports of butter to destinations outside the Community regardless of the need for a balance between internal and external disposals. Moreover, this would have been regardless of the budgetary implications for which the Commission was accountable to Parliament.

As long as the Community had butter surpluses the Commission was committed to maintaining a balance between disposal on the internal and external markets. It was a difficult balance to strike. For various reasons it cost rather more in budgetary terms to dispose of surplus butter on the internal market through subsidies to Community consumers than it did to export it to third countries with the aid of export subsidies.

The Commission also knew it had responsibilities, political responsibilities if one wished, not in a party sense but envisaging the consequences of its actions to taxpayers and consumers to give them some benefit from surpluses if they occurred.

They had to strike a balance between these two points of view. It was precisely because the Commission feared the balance was moving too far in one direction, as a result of the large quantities first removed, and then actually prefixed, but all within a very short period on February 24 and 25, that they acted as they did.

This censure motion was split wide open by its own contradictions. It was censuring the Commission for not consulting the Parliament in line with undertakings given by M Claude Cheysson, the European Commissioner, to the effect that the Commission would "consult the budgetary authority in future before taking any decision which is of special political importance or which, owing to its volume, exceeds the scope of normal administrative procedures and has budgetary consequences for which no provision has been made at the beginning of the financial year".

However, had the Commission not acted as it did, and rapidly, they would have risked coming

before the Parliament with much larger commitments and more serious consequences.

Perhaps with the benefit of perfect hindsight the suspension which the Commission had decided on February 25 could have been better adopted a day earlier. In this case there would have been successful preferential for only 10,000 tonnes rather than 36,000 tonnes for export to the Soviet Union. But obviously such action would have been even less in accordance with the wishes of those members who had tabled the censure motion.

That is (he said) the essence of contradiction which lies at the very heart of the motion we are debating today.

The Commission's view was that it had acted in such a way as to preserve, rather than to undermine, its undertaking to consult the Parliament.

He believed the Commission had acted properly, in accordance with its undertakings, and he asked the House to reject the motion.

The Commission had almost impossible task. Whatever they did in striking the balance between internal and external markets and between the interests of Community exporters and food consumers, it could not avoid criticism from one group or another.

Unless (he said) we get this sector properly balanced we have almost no chance of budgetary commitments for milk—I fear for the future of the CAP.

Herr Ludwig Fellermaier (West Germany, Dep) said his group had been impressed by M Colinet's solemn tone. If they looked at the political map of Europe they would see the Commission's action during the recent local elections in France. The censure motion appeared to have been tabled by the Commission in order to prevent the Commission from being in power even for 100 days and they were trying to dissuade it already.

The Parliament should not lap to its feet every time it felt that an error had been committed and put down a censure motion.

Mr Alfred Bertrand (Belgium, Dep) said his group had not been impressed by M Colinet's solemn tone. If they looked at the political map of Europe they would see the Commission's action during the recent local elections in France. The censure motion appeared to have been tabled by the Commission in order to prevent the Commission from being in power even for 100 days and they were trying to dissuade it already.

The Parliament should not lap to its feet every time it felt that an error had been committed and put down a censure motion.

Mr Gerard Bordu (France, Comm) said the French Communists felt that French farmers should not foot the bill for the common agricultural policy. The Commission bore considerable responsibility for the present 200,000 tonnes butter surplus.

Stocks had to be distributed both to the poorest sectors of the population in the Community and by embarking on an active export policy the practice of discriminatory sales overseas anguished badly for the Commission's trading relations. French Communists would vote in favour of the censure motion.

Signor Renato Sandri (Italy, Comm) said Italian Communists would vote against the motion because it was not well founded or justified.

The censure motion was rejected by 95 votes to 15, majority, 80.

In a final vote on this year's farm price review a resolution was carried taking note of the Commission's recommendation for an overall price increase of 3 per cent, but it believed this would lead to a reduction in income in certain sectors, create unacceptable pressures on income in certain member states and not allow for a sufficient margin for the adjustment of the green currency rates.

The resolution drew attention that, owing to the instability of exchange rates the agricultural policy was unable to function. It urged the Commission and Council of Ministers to take appropriate action.

It stressed that in making green currency adjustments consideration must be given to problems of particular countries and the high rates of inflation in some of the countries with revalorized currencies. It also emphasized that the United Kingdom must realize its prices and considered that the green rate for the Irish pound should be immediately devalued in fact.

HOME NEWS

Campaign to improve restaurant hygiene

Health officers in all 32 London boroughs are taking concerted action to overcome low standards of safety and hygiene in many of the capital's 20,000 catering establishments.

The initiative has been launched by the food group of the Environmental Health Officers' Association, whose specialist inspectors have been alarmed at the number of restaurants and cafes where staff and equipment are dirty, kitchens badly constructed, and pests, including rats, mice and cockroaches, uncontrolled. It is estimated that a tenth of premises in central London and a twentieth in Greater London contravene regulations.

The aim of the campaign will be to agree on the best methods of inspection and enforcement. Environmental health departments, the association believes, are understaffed. It wants strong codes of practice and concentration of staff on premises thought to be at risk of neglecting hygiene standards.

Mr Robert Crozier, secretary of the Greater London Centre Food Group, said some staff in catering establishments were untrained, incompetent and irresponsible in food preparation.

The group was seeking agreed criteria on when to begin prosecutions. Discussion would also take place on whether more inspections should be made at night.

"Hygiene does not stop at 5 pm, and the catering at some banquets might need inspection", Mr Crozier said.

Nurses point to imbalances in health-service care

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

There is an urgent need to find effective ways of measuring the quality of health services and to assess priorities scientifically, the Royal College of Nursing says in evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service, published yesterday.

The NHS has done little to redistribute health care, it says. Much of the difficulty lay in the failure to identify the needs of different areas. For example, moves of population away from cities, changes in industry and movements in government offices, the establishment of new towns, wrong demographic forecasts or pressures created in holiday areas had all created imbalances.

No tools were available to measure health-care deprivation. A start had been made in

the redistribution of resources by the Resource Allocation Working Party; but the use of the standard mortality rate as an indicator of illness by which to reallocate hospital resources was a blunt instrument. There were many reasons why chronic sickness or days lost from work were higher in the north of the country and the lack of provision of hospital beds was not one of them.

Medical advances and new technology often upset careful planning. The increased use of contraception had led to a fall in the birth rate, planning had been upset by New Commonwealth immigration, which, when allowed to cluster, had produced unforeseen strains on health services, and linked with the difficulty of high-density population had been the changed character of the inner

cities, whose services were planned for different needs.

Variations in needs and resources were not the only issues affecting the quality of services. A high ratio of hospital beds might be used not to meet genuine health needs but social needs, such as homelessness. The poor and uneducated did not get the best use of the health services, not because they were poor but because they could not communicate their needs.

Studies had shown that sickness was like an iceberg with its mass submerged. As the community became more intolerant of minor ill health and failed to prevent it, the iceberg was pushed further out of the surface. There was much unmet need and high on the list were the old and disabled living alone.

There was also a depressing

lack of care and accommodation for the young chronic sick. People with minor conditions such as hernias, varicose veins, bunions and bad backs presented health difficulties which detracted from the quality of their lives and their capacity to earn a living.

Drug addicts and alcoholics created particular social health difficulties; and the needs of the dying and their relatives had been relatively neglected.

The memorandum says that there must be a transfer of resources from hospitals to community care and from secondary care to primary care in order to meet new needs. It calls for greater integration of the health and social services.

Hospital waiting lists were often misleading and meaningless. The only one that might be considered was an "hotel" charge for patients in hospital for more than a week.

Nurses should be given the opportunity of taking greater responsibility in the clinical field by becoming nurse specialists or nurse consultants.

was waiting for what and why?

The Department of Health and Social Security is criticized for doing too much and usurping officers in the field while failing to give guidance or take firm decisions when they are needed. Circulars were issued about fire precautions, family planning, hearing aids and so on without suggestions about producing money to meet the needs.

The college says it is opposed to charges for NHS patients. The only one that might be considered was an "hotel" charge for patients in hospital for more than a week.

Nurses should be given the opportunity of taking greater responsibility in the clinical field by becoming nurse specialists or nurse consultants.

Drug industry 'threatened by government controls'

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The British drug industry, which supplies 99 per cent of all medicines used in the National Health Service and exports products valued at £453m to other countries, has told the Royal Commission on the National Health Service that its effectiveness and innovation is threatened by encroaching government controls.

In evidence published yesterday the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry says: "The new medicines which have become available to the NHS since 1948 have almost entirely derived from the cut and thrust of the international private enterprise innovators." No country could

otherwise produce a steady flow of important new medicines.

The memorandum says it is unfortunate that successive official or quasi-official bodies in various parts of the world have failed to understand the importance of competitiveness. It cites the Sainsbury report in Britain as an example.

The industry in Britain was spending £10m a year on research. The role of the NHS in relation to the conduct of clinical trials of new medicines was of the greatest importance. The high reputation of British medicine and of its clinical pharmacology guaranteed high standards of evaluation of new medicines and the high standard of fundamental medical research in Britain, greatly

contributed to the industry's ability to succeed in developing valuable new medicines.

The industry's sales to the NHS rose from £26m in 1963 to £244m in 1975. But in the same period NHS prescriptions by general practitioners as a proportion of total expenditure on the service fell from 7.7 per cent to 6.7 per cent. In recent years the industry's ability to provide an efficient service to the NHS had been jeopardized by sharply declining profits from NHS sales.

Stringent government schemes to regulate prices of drugs and profits had contributed to the decline, which was from 27.2 per cent in 1974 to 14.7 per cent in 1975.

The association points out that although it shares the

desire of Government and doctors to make the introduction of new medicines as safe as possible there were grave dangers that too cumbersome a system of monitoring the use of new drugs might seriously inhibit pharmaceutical innovation.

It concludes that the industry has given excellent value to the NHS and by contributing significantly to the national economy and the balance of trade has helped to produce the wealth on which the NHS depended.

Higher standards of prescribing could be achieved not by governmental restriction but by fostering an extension of undergraduate and postgraduate training in clinical pharmacology.

Virus kills 10 in hospital

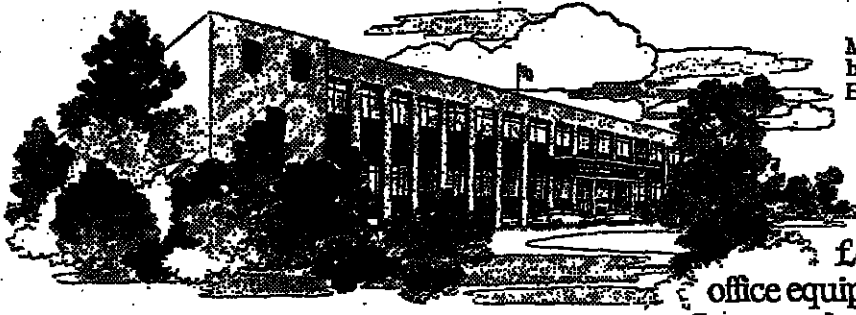
Tests are being carried out at Bo'ness Hospital, Central Region, to identify a virus that has caused the death of 10 elderly women in the hospital in the past week. Nine of the women were aged over 80 and one was 77.

Analysts from Glasgow have been called in but the results of their tests may not be known until next week. Five other patients are suffering from the virus but appear to be recovering, according to hospital officials.

More Home News, pages 20, 21

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Reducing prison population

Home of Commons

Mr Bruce Grieve (Lichfield and Tamworth, Lab) successfully sought leave to introduce a Bill which, he said, aimed at reducing the size of the prison population by providing alternatives to custodial sentences and limiting sentences for which custodial offences were awarded.

Minor offences (he said) should be removed from those punishable by imprisonment.

He specified offences under the Bankruptcy Acts, and Acts which involved only drunkenness, of which 50,000 a year went before the courts.

Sex therapy

Mr David Emma, Secretary of State for Social Services, in a written reply to a question recently submitted a detailed report of his two year pilot project, largely funded by my department, in the training of counsellors to treat sexual difficulties as part of their general marriage guidance work.

The report concluded that suitably trained volunteer marriage guidance counsellors can successfully counsel clients with sexual problems.

After careful consideration of the report and NMGC's proposals to develop this aspect of its work, my department has agreed in principle to support a development of this work up to March, 1980.

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HOME NEWS

Change in law to allow strikes sought by Post Office unions

Labour Editor

Leaders of the two main Post Office unions are seeking government action to change the law so that their right to strike is not curtailed by a legal obligation not to interfere with the free passage of mails. The move was given the full backing of the TUC General Council yesterday.

The Union of Post Office Workers and the Post Office Engineering Union are to meet Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, soon to ask for a Cabinet initiative to lift restrictions on industrial action in the Post Office and Telegraph Acts. A TUC observer will be present.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said yesterday that the restrictions on industrial action were an anachronism in the 1970s, when similar prohibitions on water, gas and electricity supply workers had long been lifted. "There is a very strong case for bringing the Post Office into line with other industries", he added.

There was doubt about the legal standing of industrial action in the Post Office, and no action was taken against employees who took part in the nine-week strike in 1971. But the Court of Appeal had made clear its view in the case involving Mr John Gouriet and the National Association for Freedom over cutting postal and telecommunication links with South Africa as part of an international trade union protest over apartheid: the law did prohibit action that interfered with mails.

Mr Murray conceded that the Government might find difficulty in changing the 1953 Acts

in the face of Conservative opposition. "But we have never taken the view that we should be reluctant to ask for something merely because it may be difficult for somebody else to do it."

The UPW and the POEU, against whom the Court of Appeal granted "an interim injunction forbidding their boycott of postal and telecommunication links with South Africa, are appealing to the House of Lords.

The unions have had talks with the TUC and have agreed that one counsel will handle the case on behalf of them both. The TUC will meet a third of the costs of the appeal, with the two unions paying the rest.

Their case is based on the labour movement's objection to the wider implications of the Court of Appeal's decision. In the view of the unions a new kind of civil action has been created that enables a private individual to bring an action to uphold a public right or public law. The effect would be that cases could be brought against trade unionists "in a variety of circumstances".

The TUC is also to take up with Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, its objections to the Criminal Law Bill. Mr Rees has already said he will not meet any of the points so far raised with him, although he is sympathetic to the aim of excluding industrial disputes from the Bill.

The TUC argues that the Bill would curtail the discretion "on the police, both in relation to conspiracy law generally and to such matters as trespass, which might pose 'great dangers' for unionists engaged in industrial disputes but not involved in acts of violence or contemplating criminal acts.

Britain told not to panic over saccharine

By Hugh Clayton

Britain should not be stampeded into banning saccharine because its safety had been questioned in North America, a leading nutritional scientist said yesterday. Mr Nathan Goldenberg, scientific adviser with Marks & Spencer, said: "We should not panic. We should not repeat the experience of cyclamates."

Mr Goldenberg was a member of the Government's Food Additives and Contaminants Committee during its investigation of cyclamate sweeteners in soft drinks. "I think it was wrong to permit cyclamates in the first place, but the committee did permit them", he said.

Saccharin is the only artificial sweetener used in this country and has been available for more than fifty years. Miss Dorothy Hollingsworth, director-general of the British Nutrition Foundation, said yesterday that risks had to be set against benefits. "What about the diabetics, what about those who are obese if the only artificial sweetener is banned?"

Mr Goldenberg said an example of balance could be seen in the use of nitrates in bacon, ham and other processed meats. Nitrates could produce minute amounts of carcinogenic nitrosamine. "We do not know whether very small concentrations of these substances are harmful or not", he said, "but the benefit was clear because nitrates inhibited bacteria that could cause fatal illnesses."

He was speaking after publication of a guide to and defence of food additives by the foundation. Mr Goldenberg called for curbs on the use of added colours in food. (Forbes Publication, Harrow, Essex, Queensway, London W2; £1.50.)

WEST EUROPE

No-confidence motion against Mr Jenkins resoundingly defeated

From David Cross

Luxembourg, March 23 Mr Roy Jenkins and his colleagues in the European Commission had executive and policy-making rights, not a political role to fulfil, he asserted.

Moreover, the suspension of sales to Eastern Europe was discriminatory and infringed the rights of Europe's farmers. If the Community discouraged farmers, they would disengage themselves and there would be a shortfall in European food supplies, he said.

Supporting his Gaullist compatriot, M Gerard Bordon, of the Communist group, said the EEC had to have an active non-discriminatory export policy. The Commission bore considerable responsibilities for the existing 200,000-tonne butter mountain, in his view.

Mr Ralph Howell, of the Conservative group, said the Commission could not pick and choose its customers. Moreover, the Commission had mishandled the Community's dairy policy.

Opposing the motion, Herr Ludwig Fellmerhauer, a West German Socialist, said it would be wrong for the Parliament to dismiss the Commission less than 100 days after it had taken office.

Later during a vote on this year's farm price review, the Parliament manoeuvred itself into the uncomfortable position of failing to offer member governments a clear opinion on the size of farm price rises during the coming crop year.

A resolution, adopted by a small majority after a long procedural wrangle merely "took note" of the Commission's proposal for a 3 per cent increase, but pointed out unhelpfully that this would lead to a reduction of income for some farmers.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Dutch trying to form caretaker Cabinet

From Sue Masterman

The Hague, March 23 Queen Juliana of the Netherlands today consulted three advisers to determine tactics after yesterday's collapse of the Government. She called in the chairmen of the two Houses and the vice-chairman of the Privy Council.

Since there are just two months before the general elections are held, a caretaker government will have to fill the gap. Some political parties are in favour of a minority caretaker government consisting of the 10 Progressive ministers, who offered their resignation yesterday after their six Christian Democratic partners had resigned.

Others would prefer to see the whole of the outgoing Cabinet carry on until the elections on May 25. This is normal procedure in the Netherlands.

Tomorrow Queen Juliana is expected to continue talks with the chairmen of the 14 parliamentary parties before deciding whom to invite to form an interim government.

Yugoslavs detain Djilas cousin

Belgrade, March 23—Yugoslav police have detained the cousin of Mr Milovan Djilas, the dissident author and former Vice-President, for alleged hostile propaganda against the state, legal sources said today.

They said that Mr Vitomir Djilas had been held since March 14 in Trogat, capital of Montenegro. He had not been formally charged. Reuter.

Election ruling starts Suárez controversy

From William Chislett

Madrid, March 23 Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, can stand in the forthcoming general elections without having to resign beforehand, according to the text of the electoral law published today.

This controversial issue is bound to be the subject of much heated discussion. The reason is that a decision by the Prime Minister to be the candidate of a particular party would greatly enhance the chances of that party because of his popular image.

But there is an exhaustive list of those who must resign eight days after the elections are announced. It ranges from ministers to holders of high office in the civil service, the armed forces and the National Movement, the one legal political organisation under the late General Franco.

The Prime Minister is the exception. As the independent newspaper El País pointed out in a strongly critical leading article today Señor Suárez was appointed by King Juan Carlos and the mandate on his office does not expire until July, 1981.

The political reforms have not altered this situation and the Prime Minister is neither appointed by nor responsible to the Cortes (Parliament).

As the law stands the Prime Minister forming the new government after the June elections will still be chosen from a list drawn up by the Council of the Realm and presented to the King. Indeed Señor Suárez could legally continue in office without even standing in the elections.

El País said that if he did so, he would destroy belief in the fairness of these elections. It would be an even more serious matter, if he decided to form from within the Government his own political party.

Reports have been circulating that he may indeed form his own party, but equally it is said that he might indirectly ally himself to a centre grouping or present himself as an independent.

Whether Señor Suárez will indeed stand in the elections is Madrid's most zealously guarded secret. A highly placed source close to Señor Suárez said jokingly that "not even the Prime Minister's shadow knows what he will do."

Probably he will not make up his mind until the thorny issue of the legalization of the Spanish Communist Party is solved. The party expects to be legalized this week and then Señor Suárez will gauge what effect this will have on the electoral arena, particularly on the neo-Francoist Popular Alliance headed by Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the former Interior Minister.

Publication of the text of the law confirmed that the campaign will last three weeks. Election of the Congress of Deputies (350 seats) will be by a complicated system of proportional representation and for the Senate by a straight majority system. There will be a minimum of three deputies for each province. There will be 207 elected senators and the King has the right to nominate up to 40. The Government will also subsidize candidates to some extent.

M Giscard still believes in the virtues of reform

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, March 23 President Giscard d'Estaing today broke his silence on the municipal elections. In a statement at the meeting of the Cabinet, he called on the government majority to put an end to its divisions, while maintaining its pluralist character.

It must agree on a "frank and loyal majority pact" involving both a programme of action for the next legislature, after the decisive parliamentary election of 1978, and a coherent organisation, he said.

But he left his options open. He would, he said, inform the country later of his decisions on the future political strategy of his Government.

Nothing in today's statement indicates what this will be, save his call on the government majority not to respond to the progress of the Opposition at the polls by a "defensive attitude, based on set interests or conceptions". Frenchmen, he said, aspired to a more just, more equal and freer society. They had confirmed that in this respect, they wanted change.

The President's confidence in the virtues of liberalism and reform has not been shaken by the defeat of the majority at the polls. "If it wants to do better in the parliamentary election of 1978—and the figures show it can—it must be the bearer of a message of progress, justice and freedom", he said. "Its mission consists in convincing Frenchmen of the superiority of the liberal conception of society and democracy. It has all the arguments necessary to do so."

There were rumour today of a government reshuffle brought about by the resignation of those ministers who had been defeated at the polls. M Michel Duraufour, the Minister Delegate to the Finance Minister, and M Pierre Brousse, the Minister of Trade, the reported to have submitted their resignation yesterday.

There were also rumours of a possible decision to abandon majority voting in favour of proportional representation for the 1978 election. But the President obviously wants to give himself time, leaving his options open.

Lawyers win freedom to plead throughout EEC

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, March 23 Within two years the EEC's 125,000 lawyers will be able to represent their clients anywhere in the Community under the terms of a directive adopted in Brussels last night by the Council of Ministers, the supreme decision-making body of the Nine.

Any lawyer who is practising regularly in his own country will be able to plead on behalf of a client in the courts, or before the public authorities, of another member country. At present, a client can be represented only by a lawyer who has qualified and is practising locally.

The directive does not at this stage go beyond establishing the freedom to provide legal services. It does not give law-

yers the right to set-up permanent practice anywhere in the Community, which would presuppose some harmonization of legal procedures and mutual recognition of diplomas.

A lawyer taking advantage of the new regulations would practise under the same conditions as lawyers established in the host country, but would be subject to the codes of professional conduct both of the host country and of his home country.

Foreign lawyers representing clients in Britain could act either as solicitors or as barristers but could not fulfil both functions. They would have to seek the assistance of a locally established colleague to play the other role. The functions are not separated in the same way on the Continent.

Swiss brigadier to be tried on spy charges

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, March 23 The trial by military court of Brigadier Jean-Louis Jeanmaire, former chief of the Swiss Army air protection troops, and his wife is to open in Lausanne on June 14.

They are charged—the wife as an accomplice—with having conveyed political and military information to contacts at the Soviet Embassy. The brigadier, who is 66 and a career officer, retired in December, 1975, but was still working as an adviser to the Army when arrested eight months ago.

The trial is expected to last three days, with the proceedings mainly behind closed doors.

Rabies warning after vet dies in Lucerne

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, March 23 A Lucerne veterinary surgeon, aged 58, has become the second person to die of rabies in Switzerland this year.

In Vaud, the latest canton affected as rabies cases continue its penetration southwards across the country, the authorities today warned people against using any wild edible plants without testing them. They added that during this washing broken skin could enable the virus to enter a person's bloodstream if a plant has been contaminated by saliva from an infected animal. The ban on shooting wildlife, in force since 1974, is expected to be relaxed.

'Rapist of the snows' sent to prison for 12 years

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, March 23 A sentence of 12 years hard labour was passed at Stierre today on John Lawrence-Bazeley, a 32-year-old Briton from the Isle of Man, who was found guilty of a number of offences including rape, endangering life and fraud.

The court refused to accept a defence plea of diminished responsibility. Lawrence-Bazeley had committed offences at leading ski resorts, including St Moritz, Gstaad and Davos. The Swiss press has nicknamed him the *voleur des neiges*—the rapist of the snows. He was finally arrested in a night club at Saas-fee on Christmas Eve, 1975, after a

musician had recognized him on the basis of a televised identikit portrait compiled by the police from descriptions furnished by his victims.

Among the incidents of rape listed in the indictment was one that took place on the night of December 16, 1975, after Mr Lawrence-Bazeley met a woman aged 25 in a night club. According to the indictment, he asked for a lift in his car. On a lonely forest road he held a knife to her throat and forced her to remove her clothing. After raping her, he locked her in the boot of the car, where she remained in sub-zero temperatures until discovered six hours later, suffering from shock and exposure.

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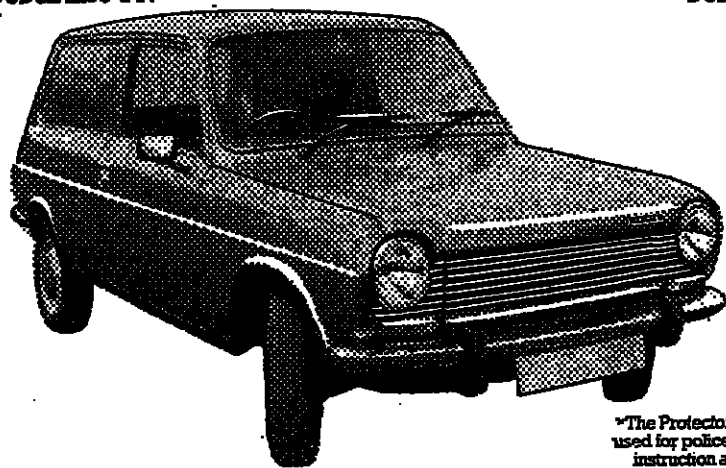
Under the Chrysler Extra Care Policy, the following parts will be replaced free of charge should they wear out during the 12 months' Warranty period regardless of the number of miles the vehicle has covered:

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- Free replacement of brake drums.
- Free replacement of clutch cover and driven plate.
- Free replacement of exhaust system.
- Free replacement of headlamp sealed beam units (where fitted).
- Free replacement of shock absorbers.

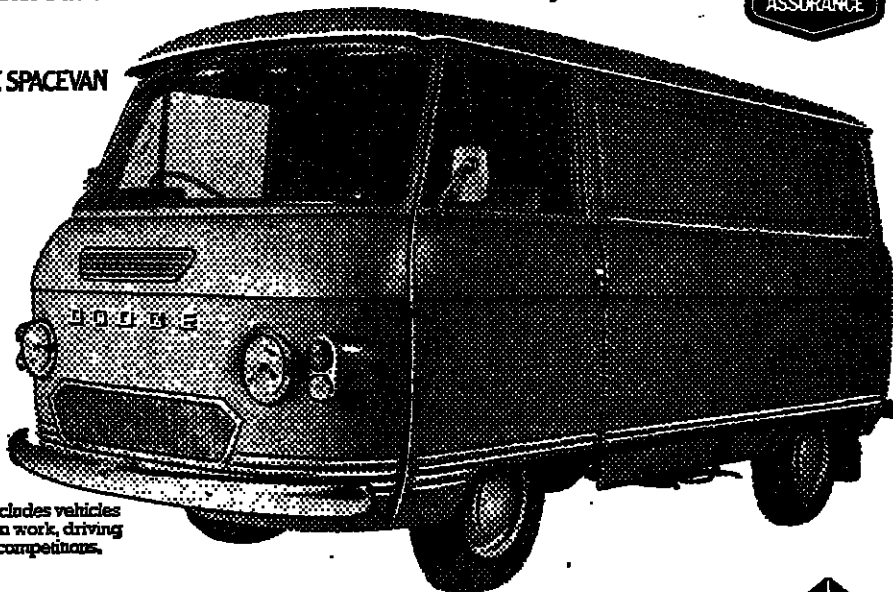
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From Mozart to Mahler, from Elton John to John Denver



We all know that composers down the centuries have filched each others' tunes. But *New Scientist's* lead story this week refers to a totally unexpected discovery. For, as Denys Parsons, the author of a highly original directory of tunes, describes his analysis of the openings of some 14,000 compositions reveals a remarkable tendency for writers of music—both classical and pop—to follow certain set patterns.

Also this week, *New Scientist* carries:

A fine piece of speculation about where huge primordial craters, the astrons, may lie hidden in the Earth's crust.

Some early results from a highly sensitive new British electronic camera for astronomers.

And articles on chemists' declining salaries, the case for dumping nuclear waste in the sea, the improving ecology of the Thames, and detecting blood diseases in unborn babies.

newscientist

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مكتبة الأصيل

Mrs Gandhi's defeat gives courage to S Korean dissidents

polls to vote against dictatorial rule. At least they were given that opportunity and the transfer of power was carried

Government has not lifted a finger to champion human rights in this country and Park is allowed to get away with these abuses."

Mr Odinga insists on standing for party post

Mr Arum Senkuttuvan, the Singapore correspondent of the

US must strike a delicate balance on Panama

more flexible than they seem. The Panamanians could be given control of various aspects of the canal's management in

all rich and wily dependent upon the United States. Its currency is the American dollar, disguised as a bolivar, and it would not seem improbable

The balance within the President's negotiators will have to strike is a delicate one and on any way or another the matter is going to cause a lot of trouble.

Paris meeting on U S-Hanoi links

being "defearist", the Iraqi news agency reported.

Singapore minister defends arrests

they had committed anti-government actions.

Mr Rajaratnam said that reports of the arrests in Bri-

House-to-house search for Addis Ababa 'assassins'

The military Government said the aim of the search was to disarm counter-revolutionaries using Addis Ababa as a hideout.—Reuter.

Peking pleased by results of Indian election

buying in US

Concorde lobbying in US has cost French £1.6m

Unfortunately all this effort and expenditure by the French seems to be mostly counter-productive. The British, although they too have lawyers and friends in court, have not

Most wanted man murdered

In the last of a series of trials in South Africa, he had been sentenced to 15 years'

N Korea puts coffins to communal use

The coffins are used to carry corpses to graves and are then returned empty to the undertakers for further service. The body is buried in a shroud.

Supreme Court confirms confession rule

The Chief Justice, Mr Warren Burger, dissenting, denounced the court majority for "mistakenly following the course of punishing the public for the mistakes and misdeeds

Chinese Army to fight drought

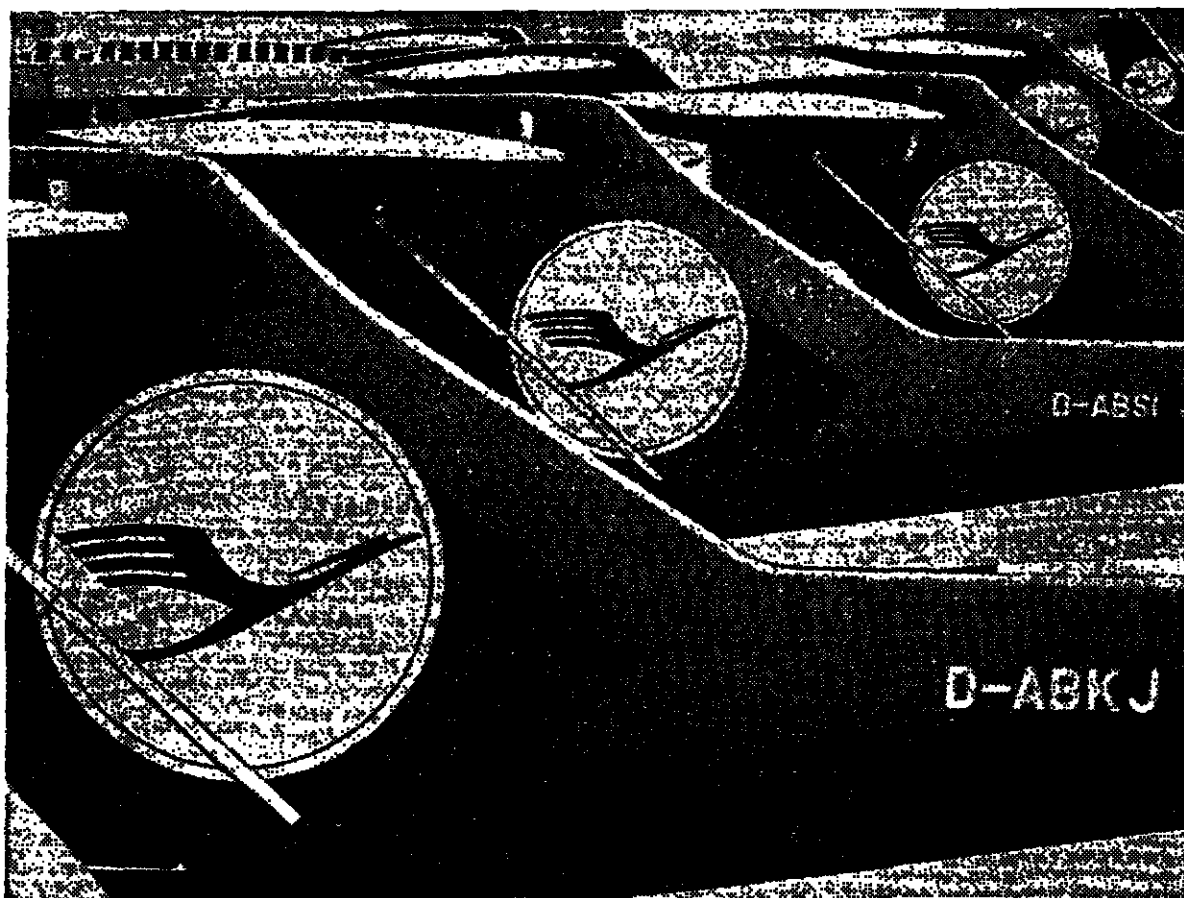
It said the General Staff had ordered soldiers from all units into the countryside to help with "anti-drought" work -- enter.

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SPORT

Racing

Bruni brought back with Gold Cup in mind

By Michael Seely

On the opening day of the flat racing season, the excitement and the racing news that Bruni, the 1975 St Leger winner, will land in England on Saturday, and will be trained for the Ascot Gold Cup. Bruni, who is owned by a syndicate headed by Charles St George, has been campaigning in California. The grey has been untried in each of his three races. The nearest he came to winning was when finishing fifth to Caucasus in the San Luis Rey Stakes at Santa Anita last week.

Mr St George told Michael Phillips yesterday that after Bruni's first race in America the impression was formed that the five-year-old might not be suited to the tight American circuits. Therefore, the decision of entering him at Ascot. After all, even on the galloping tracks in Europe, a mile and a half in top class company proved a little sharp for Bruni, although he was perhaps a shade unlucky to be beaten by Pawnee in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

Bruni's return to Ryan Price means that there are now 10 individual class winners still in training in England, France and Ireland. The prospect of Bruni trying to prevent Sagaro from lifting his third successive title is an enthralling one and will ensure a tussle worthy of Europe's most important test for stayers.

At Doncaster the 1977 campaign opens with a flourish, as for the first time since this fixture was transferred from Lincoln all the runners are owned by the flat. With the help of sponsors, the course manager, Don Cox, and the clerk of the course, George Boon, are to be congratulated for the first time in days of magnificent racing which carry £53,500 in added money.

The Irish Sweepstake Handicap is a highlight of the meeting, but the prize money has been spread equally over the entire programme,

ensuring a good mixture of competitive handicaps, two-year-olds racing, and weight-for-age events which are blessed with a touch of class.

The centrepiece of today's card is the 15,000 Tote Spring Handicap. This seven-furlong event for three-year-olds is Mr Cox's own brainchild and has attracted some progressive young horses from all over the country. You would think that this type of race with 21 runners, was one to watch, rather than one on which to bet. It is notoriously difficult to know what progress horses have made between the ages of two and three, quite apart from the question of their fitness.

There is the danger of the draw on the straight course on the Town Moor. But although both Aspect and Region, drawn at 12 and 13, might not be considered as favourites in this respect, the money continued to be piled on both colts with the sponsors showing their good state of mind. Region was the favourite at 4-1, with Aspect second favourite at 5-1.

Aspect was one of his five races last season when trained by Douglas Smith. It was in the last of these three victories in a nursery at Newmarket that Aspect showed that he might be a fast improving colt. It is on the basis of that performance that Region considers him to be the pick of the weights in the Free Handicap.

After being sold for a considerable sum of money, the former-combine colt was transferred to Gavin Pritchard-Gordon, now installed as his new quarters at Stanley House, Studley, Leicestershire, unknown to his trainer Aspect, heavily backed to win the Free Handicap. Aspect, who has been considered in good state on the Heath, may also run in the Free Handicap, and if he proved good enough may be fished against The Minstrel in the 2,000 Guineas.

Region, on the other hand, is considered by both Timeform and Raceform Private Handicapper to have

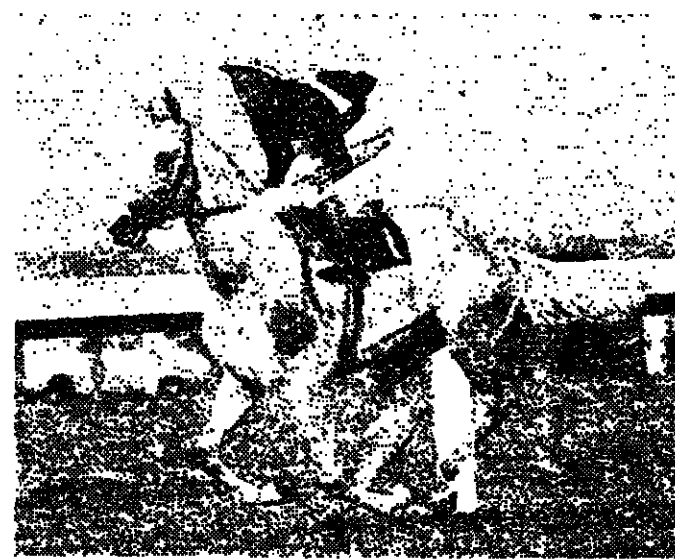
as much chance of winning this afternoon's race as a snowball has of surviving in Hell. But although Region's only victory at Ayr does not amount to much on paper, Peter Walwyn's colt lost a great deal of ground at the start and finished like a rocket to beat Musson Lane and Viscount. He is also remembered to be the most forward of his trainer's powerful team of three-year-olds and it is probably for this reason that he has been so well supported in the main book market.

The other two horses that appear to have been trained for this race are Donzel and Bedford Lodge. Donzel, the mount of William Carr, is trained by Guy Harwood, who always has his string fit early and saddled two winners on the last day last season. But Donzel is not well drawn at seven.

Bedford Lodge, who won three races last year, cannot be considered as a serious contender with his trainer, Neville Callaghan, from his position on the favoured stand. Bedford Lodge, on that side is Ryan Jarvis's surprise Sandown Park winner, Arctic Tribune. This is a three-year-old of scope and potential who is one to follow this season, but may need today's race.

Having advised support for Region, who he stood at 12-1, I have no intention of deserting him now, but would not dream of putting any odds on the horse he has mentioned. I also pass a tip for last year's Brocklesby winner, Red Johnnie, whom Clive Brinlin considers he has to his liking.

The afternoon starts with another fascinating sprint for three-year-olds, the Tote Jubilee Stakes. Joe Mercer, riding Bill Watts's tough little colt, La Ville de Rive, who besides being successful in good state on the Heath, season, finished runner-up to Mandrake Major in the Flying Children Stakes on this course and a creditable sixth to Tachypous in the Middle Park Stakes. The Town Crier colt's form reads better than that of Ryan Price's Hyer HNL,



Bruni: no success on the tight American circuits.

Jameson and Champagne Willie, who our Newmarket Correspondent says has been going great guns on the Heath. But in going for La Ville de Rive, I advise against taking a short price, as the three-year-old may not yet be 100 per cent wound up.

In the March Stakes Peter Walwyn runs Do Better, near after winning first time out at Haydock on Saturday. Do Better, a black stallion, is a 10,000 guineas yearling. Our Newmarket man puts in a good word for Clive Brinlin's Great Appeal, but I shall rely on my reports of Pat Rahner's Rob-Fab. By L'Homme Arme out of a Savajiro mare, Rob-Fab may be outpacing early on, but will be losing his best work in the closing stages of the race.

There is the usual plethora of tips for the Brocklesby Stakes, the first two-year-old race of the season. That early season specialist Richard Hannon sees a rare puzzle by putting Peter Madden on Golden Libra, who is bred to fly, being the Goldilocks out of the team of Luck Park and the Lincoln winter. Bronze Bill, while the stable jockey, Frank Durr, rides Silverthorn. That other crack starter, Brian Swain, runs Salute One, a 10,000 guineas yearling. Our Newmarket man puts in a good word for Clive Brinlin's Great Appeal, but I shall rely on my reports of Pat Rahner's Rob-Fab. By L'Homme Arme out of a Savajiro mare, Rob-Fab may be outpacing early on, but will be losing his best work in the closing stages of the race.

STATE OF CONC (official): Doncaster, 12.45. Lincoln, 12.45. Haydock, 12.45. Devlin, 12.45. Mrs Sander ensured that their

Golf

Mrs Sander plays her part nobly and provides a final flourish

By Peter Ryde
Golf Correspondent

In two days fields of 320 players in the Sunningdale mixed foursomes have been so reduced that by this evening those in the semi-final round will be known. Only two or three survivors are known.

Miss Greenhalgh and Cayll yesterday won well, twice, scoring to use the smaller ball, and ending between the green and the length they needed, even over the New Course. They have reached the last eight here before and in the morning they almost surprised themselves, needing four pars for a 71 gross on their last visit to the Old Course. Their opponents, Profound and Rhodes, from Coombe Hill, had no chance, for they were conceding five strokes.

These women again received five strokes in the next round from a Yorkshire pair, Stewart and Tucker. There was a moment of panic for them when they looked as though they might go one down at the ninth, but their opponents conceded half over the green and took seven, losing the hole, and failed with a short putt to win the next.

With three strokes to come the mixed pair drew steadily away. Miss Greenhalgh is arguably the best woman golfer in this country and her ball over the green, and her length as anyone of her sex in the field.

The survival of Mrs Ann Sander and Miss Greenhalgh, who played a less serene process. Doubts about Mrs Sander's ability to keep going for two rounds a week, and her nerves, were dispelled by her strong finish yesterday against Thomas and Catell, of Farnham, in the evening. They were two down with five to play, but Mrs Sander, in whom the competitive spirit burns bright, played her last hole to a 2-1, and they were not always as Miss Sander and Miss Greenhalgh found in spite of receiving nine strokes.

strokes counted and then as a final flourish struck her three-wood into the middle of the 17th green. But this was a team effort. The doctor had come to the rescue of their morning's play, and the saving patches at the last two holes.

Last year's winners and runners-up all kept quiet on their day. La and a fellow member of his club, A. Smith, won convincingly after an anxious moment or two in the morning. Previous winners of the King and J. Davies got through mainly on the strength of their

superior long game. Backmarkers Dawson and Wood got the better of an all-professional match against Norton and Jukes.

Today, Mrs Sander and Dr McMichael, most Coles and Jimmy Tarbuck, who beat a solid pair of professionals in Richards and Stulwell. They had their troubles, losing the first two holes and conceding the ninth where their ball moved as Coles addressed it in the trees. But a two-wood by Coles, back to 20, and a two-putt on the 10th signalled the start of better times.

Second day results at Sunningdale

Old Course

Third round
G. Turner and G. Catell (1st) beat J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (2nd) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (3rd) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (4th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (5th) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (6th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (7th) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (8th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (9th) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (10th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (11th) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (12th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (13th) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (14th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (15th) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (16th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (17th) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (18th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (19th) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (20th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (21st) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (22nd) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (23rd) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (24th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. Cayll (25th) beat G. Turner and G. Catell (26th) 5-4. J. Greenhalgh and J. 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NEW BOOKS/ONE

Ultra secrets

Very Special Intelligence

The story of the Admiralty's Operational Intelligence Centre, 1939-1945

By Patrick Beesly

(Hamish Hamilton, £5.95)

The Silent Service has spoken first. This account of the Admiralty's Operational Intelligence Centre is a more explicit, more illuminating and more authoritative description of how operations in the Second World War were guided by intelligence (and intelligence men) than anything yet published in respect of the Army or the RAF. It reveals how Ultra, the information gained from our mastery of the German cipher-system, played so vital a part that it can fairly be described as a *sine qua non*.

Of the books that matter Group Captain Winterbottom's *The Ultra Secret* only touched superficially on naval themes, and Donald McLachlan, when writing his diverting *Room 39*, was hampered by security from reference to the cryptanalytical triumphs of Bletchley Park or their application to the sea-battles by the brilliant staff in the Admiralty's Citadel. So Captain Beesly, in his *Official History*, Patrick Beesly, a distinguished member of OIC's elite, is to be congratulated on breaking through the barriers.

Mr Beesly shows how the team in the OIC's Submarine Tracking Room, constantly fed from Bletchley with deciphered signals passed between the U-Boats and Dönitz's headquarters, acquired and maintained a *connaissance* familiarity with their enemy. They knew the state and location of individual craft, the morale of the crew, the name and professional experience of the captain. Their expertise was embodied in their leader, Rodger Winn, OIC (later a Lord Justice of Appeal), who mastered this most important brief, so perfectly that he could often route our mid-Atlantic convoys away from U-Boat packs and predict their future moves with clairvoyant accuracy.

Mr Beesly is concerned with truth and not sensational effect. He does not conceal limitations or failures. Ultra was not omnipotent. On

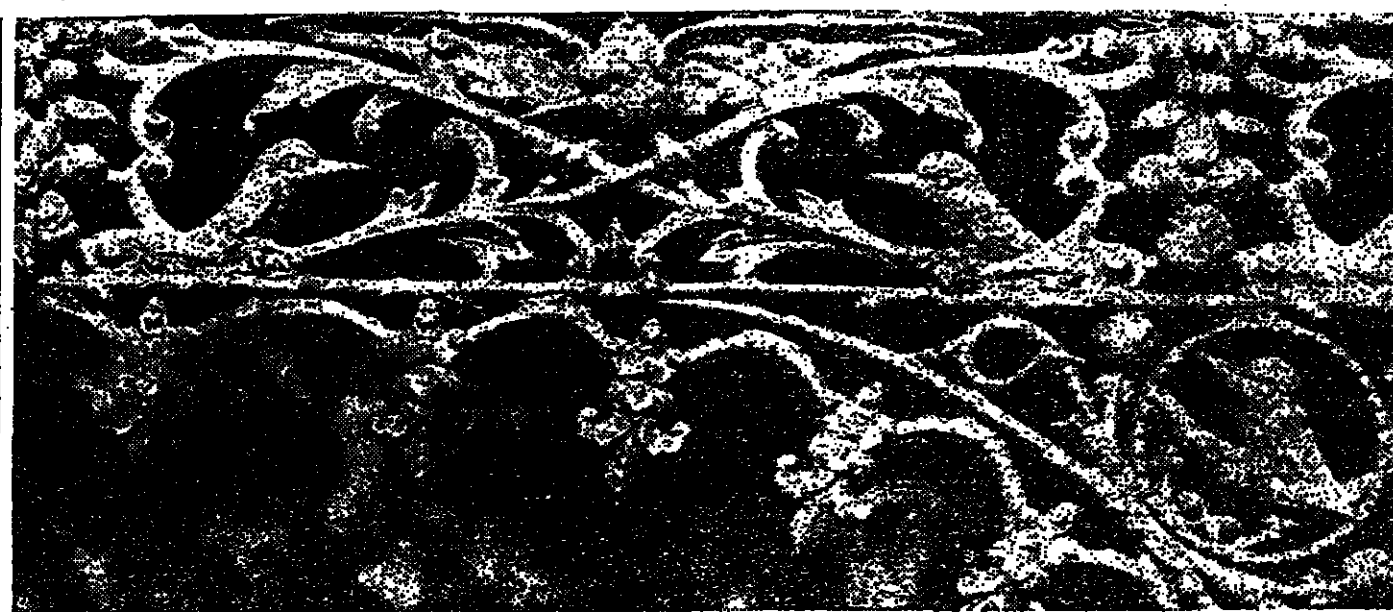
many days the ciphers were difficult or impossible to crack. In any case, we did not get into the U-Boat cipher until May 1941, and a change of cipher for the Atlantic U-Boats substantially blinded us from February until December 1942. Even the sinking of Bismarck was not, as is widely supposed, due to Ultra but, as Mr Beesly makes plain, to the other intelligence in which OIC traded and to the Admiralty's dispositions.

But in the main areas—gathering in the German supply-ships and raiders, containing the battle-fleet, winning the decisive Atlantic victory in 1943, commanding the seas for D Day—Mr Beesly demonstrates conclusively that Ultra was indispensable. It had to be handled with skill amounting to genius, in conjunction with all the other data pouring in from agents, attaches, aircraft and our own ships; and a mutual confidence between the admirals, the fighting sailors, the merchantmen and the brains in the Citadel had to be established which in 1939 would have seemed impossible. Still, in effect, Ultra became to the war at sea what radar was in the Battle of Britain.

The Navy comes out well, in spite of grave errors. It is sad to learn, now, that Admiral Pound's fatal decision to scatter convoy PQ17 in fact derived from a stubborn refusal to trust Ultra. And the gravest error of all, just pencilled in by Mr Beesly, has yet to be fully explained. Right into 1943 we stuck to codes for communicating instructions to our convoys which the Germans could read with ease—thus neutralizing the arts of Bletchley and the Tracking Room. This is a haunting business: the oil-drenched crews of torpedoed tankers still come to mind.

Nevertheless, the Senior Service let these new-style sailors have their heads in the OIC to an astonishing and rewarding extent. Outstanding regulars, like the far-sighted Dönitz, provided suffering, but the leaves came from "hostilities only" men like Winn and Beesly in London or the scintillating Hinesley at Bletchley. Has this something to do with a democracy at war? Both the British and the Americans gave civilian brains a freedom within their armed services which was inconceivable in Hitler's Reich. Yet without that freedom we should not have seen the full flowering of Rodger Winn, or R. V. Jones, or Blackett and Zuckerman, or Bill Williams at Montgomery's side. We might not have had the atom bomb—and certainly not Ultra.

Ronald Lewin



Australian railings with kookaburras, from Cast Iron Decoration: a world survey, by E. Graeme Robertson and Joan Robertson (Thames & Hudson, £14).

Absolute autocrat

The Shah

By Margaret Laing

(Sidgwick & Jackson, £6.95)

The Imperial Shah

By Gerard de Villiers

Translated by P. Wilson and Walter B. Michaels

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £5)

One of those who had a chance to get to know Shah Mohammed Reza in the years immediately after he had come to the throne described him as "an ordinary young man". He probably was; in which case, his subsequent career is a good illustration of what can happen if ordinary people are put in extraordinary situations. For whatever may be thought of the Shah's policies or techniques of government, there can be no doubt that today he is one of the half dozen or so political figures whose private judgments have the most resounding public consequences, and whose disappearance from the scene would put all the chancelleries of the world in a tizzy.

The ordinary young man has made good. But it might so easily have turned out otherwise. Mohammed Reza's childhood was not quite so appalling as that of Frederick the Great, but his father, Reza Shah, a giant, seigneurial, another cross between Moloch and Puck, terrified his family almost as much as his ministers. The son succeeded his father at the age of 21 in inauspicious circumstances. His country had been occupied by

the forces of Britain and Russia shortly to be joined by those of America, all of whom used it, without much consideration for the wishes of the inhabitants or its ruler, as an instrument in the prosecution of their war against Germany.

Hardly had Mohammed Reza escaped from this tutelage than he found himself threatened by a more dangerous bully, Dr. Mossadeq, the garrulous fanatic who nationalized Iran's oil too soon and in the wrong way, stripped him of power and dignity much more ruthlessly than the occupying powers had done and came within a whisker of finally overthrowing him. To have survived all this, and a number of assassination attempts too, must have required courage as well as luck. It is hard to see how, in the night, the Shah and his Queen as well as with some of his friends and courtiers.

She has read up her newspaper files and made intelligent use of them. M. de Villiers makes bigger claims: "I've known Iran for more than 15 years. I've met the Shah on numerous occasions." Both have predictably quite a lot to say about the Shah's wives and girl friends and about the secret police (Savak) and torture as well as about oil and politics.

E. C. Hodgkin

Nightmare trip

Where the Indus is Young

A winter in Balistan

By Dervla Murphy

(John Murray, £4.95)

Consider the situation of Miss Dervla Murphy of County Waterford on the night of March 16, 1975. With her six-year-old daughter Rachel she is spending the night on the mud floor of a flea-infested hovel in Balistan, accompanied by 17 assortedly arguing, squawking and huddle-bubbling Balis, some of them unrecognizably and unchristianly, most of them excessively disagreeable, wearing rags stiff with dirt and racked almost without exception by hacking coughs. In the night Rachel, nursing uneasily in the dust, gives her mother a sharp kick on the nose, and so violent is the consequent haemorrhage that although the elder Miss Murphy has only recently changed her clothes after three months without undressing, she is obliged to take her socks off to mop up the blood.

I have read none of Dervla Murphy's previous books, so *Where the Indus is Young* came as a shock to me. It is altogether the most appallingly fascinating travel book I have ever read. Not only is Balistan, which is somewhere in the Karakoram, the grisiest imaginable place to spend a winter in, but Miss Murphy's methods of travel are so hideous that every page of the book is a vicarious nightmare. I was quite shaken by the ex-

perience of it, and if the wandering instinct were not ingrained in me by now, might have been permanently dissuaded from foreign travel by the sheer horror of its example.

Dervla Murphy is the very antithesis of the classic English traveller. There is no irony to her approach, no patriotic detachment, no dry allusive understatement. Her writing is magnificently subjective, and much the best parts of it concern her own predicaments. Sometimes she breaks into lyric enthusiasm about landscape, but I soon learnt to skip such passages: what I wanted were the awful parts, the unvarnished melancholy of the Balis, the jeeps falling into the Indus, the frightful crumbling tracks over bottomless chasms, the assault by the lascivious Kashmiri, the moments when the Murphys and their pony Halam find their way blocked by hostile goats, or Miss Murphy senior realises that she has mistakenly brewed the tea with her own urine.

This is travel! Occasionally, I must confess, Miss Murphy's scatological humour is too strong for me, and there is hardly a mother alive who will not wonder if it is quite justifiable to submit the imperturbable Rachel to so many and such varied miseries: but the outrageousness of it all is infinitely disarming and the deliberate piling on of the agonies, toothache upon bigotry upon lice upon avalanche, is very funny indeed.

Jan Morris

Tangle of cultures

Jacky Gillott

Ariella Sun Down

By Virginia Hamilton

(Hamish Hamilton, £3.60)

The members of the Adams family have credit in the small mid-Western town they have made their home. But rarely listing the characteristics Virginia Hamilton bestows upon them is enough to evoke the uneasy social space their neighbours make for the family. Lily Adams is black, light-skinned, beautiful, cultivated. She runs the Beaux Arts school of dance. Her quiet husband wears shining white suits. He is called Sun-Stone Adams. He has the long black hair and nomadic yearning of the Indian—an inheritance their son Jack Sun-Run defiantly emphasizes. A superb horseman, he wears a band round his head and carries a knife between his teeth. The girls all think him marvellous, all that is but his sister Ariella who is mortified by his beauty. The girls come to her twelfth birthday party just to gaze at Sun-Run and she knows that.

Ariella is troubled by her "difference"—the difference she can see registered in the jealous respect of her fellow-citizens, and a more burning, by a difference between her brother and herself. He is Sun. She is Moon and that is not so good. Caught in a tangle of three inherited cul-

tures, acquired social status and fierce sibling rivalry, it might seem that Ariella's pursuit of identity is unduly overlaid with obstacles but Virginia Hamilton's style—which has all the glancing and sometimes radiant quality of sunlight—keeps the narrative of any heaviness.

Ariella finds her own being. It murmurs at her in the voice of old James False-Face, the keeper of stories. She is the daughter of a man who has entrusted to her. She is Sun, not Moon, something she discovers when she saves her brave-brother's life. Crushed by his horse, his pain both reduces him and makes it physically impossible for him to fetch his father back from the mean little American town where they once lived. Ariella must go. Sun-Stone is sledding on the moonlit hill above the town, curving down toward the gorge and away from it in a spray of snow. This sight brings the reader back to the first narrated incident of the book, Ariella's memory—an early moment lost from the surface of her mind in a rebus of the Village of False-Face.

This rich, beautiful book confirms all the gifts first apparent in Miss Hamilton's *M. C. Higgins, The Great*. She brings an imagination of such

unusual scope and luminosity to her material she gives the commonplace theme of discovery a most uncommon quality. And because she is a complete original possessed of unfamiliar vision this book is, frankly, hard work to start with. The memory sequences, which slip into the immediate narrative so gradually there is sometimes no knowing what time scale one occupies are written in a testing manner.

"He keeping on. Talking leaves a breezing sound, like a tall tree. Still breezing tall, time when we moving. If moving dreaming. I don't know. I know hearing, smelling a horse. Knowing a big horse so easy, not a sound. And so on. Perseverance is well rewarded but what is the intended readership of this book?"

In my view this is not a children's book but a novel with a child as principal character. On the basis of what Virginia Hamilton has written so far it would seem her narrative needs to be channelled through a child's eyes but while her language is not in itself difficult, the way she handles it and the complexities she seizes in its sparkling net, might well be lost on the average young reader. I may of course be under-estimating young readers. Miss Hamilton, I cannot over-estimate. She is a ravishing writer.

Crime

The Corpse on the Dike

By Janwillem van de Wetering

(Heinemann, £3.50)

The crime story as social commentary is an important branch of the art today, well outstripping in quantity and quality the crime story as puzzle-entertainment. And indeed social comment is often better conveyed with the tug of a mystery to lure the reader on than in the novel pure. A discernible offshoot of this branch is what might be called, after the British, the Moony School. In this sub-genre heroes are apt to pause rather too frequently to contemplate the way the world is seen through the eyes of a mystery. I suppose, the great exemplar, Others are Alan Hunter with his Superintendent Gentry and W. J. Buckley with his Superintendent Wycliffe, deserted in his new book *The Schoolmaster* (Gollancz, £3.75) in favour of a study of the gulcheridden, which yet is all the better for some good old mystery-story surprises. Van de Wetering, whose third novel this is, is a new recruit. His two detectives, on the Amsterdam force in which he himself was once a special constable, are in their different and quite charming,

ways great ones for a moon. Indeed, little though I personally relish the ultra-tough cop, I could not but reflect at times as these two worked their way through a Dutch Spenslow and Jenkins case that really they were too gentle by half for policemen.

Nevertheless there is much pleasure to be got here. Dutch though he is, Van de Wetering writes like English and ANL-style, and his handling shines like an Old Master picture. His heroes' gently mad jokes, too, are often savoury. And the social comment, which is often worth pondering. But social comment and tough stuff at that, can be used positively to thrust forward a crime novel. And if we had any doubt here to quell it is a reissue of *The Village of False-Face* by Julian Symons (Sever House, £3.25), a mystery featuring a Horatio Bonomey-like magazine proprietor, which in its splendidly authoritative and funny manner deals with a fine crop of early 1960s pretensions and affectations. Today it begins to take on the mantle of classicism.

Lost Ditch, by Nagie March (Collins, £3.50). Son of Algean unearths run Channel Islands goings-on. All the Marsh hallmarks: madish family, unstrained humour, picture-bright scenes, literate zest—and Algean père.

The Lady in Black, by Anna Clarke (Collins, £2.95). George Meredith (Yes) is part-investigator in this beautifully ingenious, fascinating 1880s publisher's office murder tale. You

can hardly stop yourself reading.

W. J. Weatherby (Robson Books, £2.95). Last hours of a Southern oddball in New York's 42nd Street, malingering-carpenter. Sharp-eyed journalism tells you a marvellous amount.

Neogday and Night, by Gladys Mitchell (Micheal, £3.75). Indestructible Dame Beatrice, 40-plus years solving, investigates coach holidays deaths from Fort William to West Wales. This is date-and-value cake.

A Real Killing, by William Keegan (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £3.95). Financial journalist takes happy advantage. Here is the Henry Cecil of the City, with sex. Poppingly informed; irritatingly mannerist.

The Nemesis Club, by Jenny Savage (Macmillan, £3.25). Unusual first novel describes revenge plan by mother of child-killing victim. After *cinéma vérité* and *telé-vérité* comes British provinces book-*vérité*.

This Water Laps Gently, by Mary Ingate (Macmillan, £3.25). Sequel to prize-winning novel. As heroine as you'll ever meet. Sun-drenched Greece seen through pink and blood-streaked spectacles.

The Butterfly Flood, by John Wyllie (Barrie & Jenkins, £3.95). Here's a new and most welcome setting, West Africa with a well-placed doctor investigating troubling case of headless white man.

H. R. F. Keating

Elusive hero

Leopold I of Austria

By John P. Spielman

(Thames & Hudson, £6.50)

The Emperor Leopold I of Austria (1640-1705) was the contemporary of Louis XIV, Charles II and William III; during his long reign the resources of the Empire were divided between keeping the French out of Spain and off the banks of the Rhine and driving the Turks from Hungary and, in perhaps the most celebrated event of the late 17th century, from the gates of Vienna itself.

When Leopold died in 1705, Austria had lost the battle for Spain but won her successes in the East, had become the most powerful state on the Continent after France, a position she held until the triumph of Bismarck in 1871. Vienna had begun to build stupendous palaces, churches and libraries and became what it had never quite been before—one of the great cities of the Christian world. Stirring and momentous times, then, and John P. Spielman's study, the first in addition to Ragnhild Haugen's "Men in Office" series, is claimed to be the first in English since 1709. It is not hard to see why: the hero is fascinating.

On the jacket is reproduced from the Kunsthistorisches Museum an ivory statuette of Leopold crushing the proud Ottoman beneath the feet of his horse—though with an ambivalence all too obvious in the effective assertion of power by Austrian monarchs, it is just possible to believe that the Turk is administering a firm kick of realisation in return. Two things are certain: that the Emperor, every tiny inch of him, was a man of his time, and that the Habsburgs with their lip swelling over vacant chin, is paying neither Turk nor horse much attention and that the entire conceit is allegorical. On the occasion depicted he is not even there. The Turks broke through the last defences of Northern Hungary and marched on Vienna in July 1683. Leopold fled smartly with the whole Court to Passau—an act, Professor Spielman suggests, not of cowardice so much as of common sense. Inside the walls, he would not have been able to do much good, and the Court would have consumed valuable food. The furious and frightened mob which tried to prevent the carriage from leaving obviously thought otherwise.

Leopold had not expected to be Emperor. Hunting and music were his chief passions—he built the first court opera house in Vienna and as a composer himself rates five inches in *Gravina* but he might have become an enlightened *connoisseur-Prince of the Church*. Yet he was, writes Spielman, "a perfect prince for a tradition-bound dynasty... a quiet young gentleman content to let things run as they had done in the past." After nearly a century of quietude with French, Hungarians and Turks who had, in differing dynamic ways, no intention that things should ever again run as they had done in the past, Leopold's life and career are concluded in the same faint but unmistakable tone of apology and special pleading.

Emperor Leopold's personal role in this large process of *enlightenment* is modest, yet at the same time absolutely fundamental.

It could hardly fail to be fundamental since the Emperor was the divinely sustained head of a theocratic state, but that it remained so modest is still a mystery even after reading this book. The Emperor's role in the figures in conventional, but he cannot make them think or move through his narrative, and as a concise biographer he holds too tight a rein; there are too many campaigns, battles and events to cover the sense of what is being lost out.

Throughout Spielman implicitly argues the central government's case: that the Hungarians were not bloodthirsty but actually hated the Austrians and Germans and were more than ready to accept the Turks (and with good reason) is barely considered in *Leopold I of Austria*, just as, in order to make his somewhat opaque protagonist more clearly a *Spelman*, occasionally the more brilliant contemporaries down to size, John Sobieski becoming a publicist and Prince Eugene, once a nuisance who would not wait his turn, then must be more to Leopold than this.

He was throughout his reign attracted to, and surrounded by, men of exceptional talents, whom he knew how to use (talent in itself). Not only Sobieski and Eugene, but his earliest mentors and confidants, a Prince Lobkowitz, a Count Kinsky, Starbemberg, who commanded Vienna during the siege, Charles of Lorraine who was Sobieski's reliever, and Fischer von Erlach, to whom, more richly than to any architect except Wren passed the supreme Baroque genius. Bernini's Fischer was directly encouraged and employed by the Emperor and Fischer's buildings are the monument to Leopold's imperial presumption. By contrast, the architecture of the period to a few paragraphs and not mentioning Fischer von Erlach at all. Professor Spielman makes Leopold's reign a more passive than he was. In his buildings as much as his military conquests the reign of Leopold I marks the start of Austria's heroic age. For in Fischer's age he becomes a dynamic age.

Michael Ratcliffe

M. L. Finley's new book mentioned on this page last week is called *The Atlas of Classical Archaeology* (Chatto & Windus, £8.50).

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Oxford University Press/Corgi

Peter Timmiswood

Books next week include Barry Norman on Dirk Bogarde's *A Postillion Struck* by Lightning (on Monday); Michael Ratcliffe on Christopher Isherwood's memoirs; Tim Heald on Osborne reflections (on Thursday).

مكتبة الأصيل

Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

Aspects of British

fashion

Selling ourselves right

Next week Britain plays host to that crucial bunch of buyers and journalists who buy and promote, here and abroad, the charming and profitable end products of a lot of hard work and a lot of state investment in design training. Once again, customers of news or top-casts will be faced with the need to visit four separate exhibitions if they are to feel that they have covered the market, to say nothing of the very special individual designer shows. Again, our overseas visitors certainly and many of the home buyers will be shopping at the end of their budget and the end of their physical stamina after Munich, Milan, and Paris.

Does it matter? Yes, it does. "We have got to export to survive," said Aidan Robinson, Director of European operations for the Canadian based Woodwood Stores group, and a member of the North American committee of the British Overseas Trade Board. "Our American buyers would prefer London as a venue, because, for fashion, London offers the nice corollaries—theatre, restaurants, it's much smarter than Birmingham. But what matters is really that the whole British Fashion Fair is in one place. It can take as long to get from Earls Court to the Inn on the Park as to get to Birmingham if the traffic is against you."

Lord Redmayne, Chairman of the Retail Consortium and chairman of the North American committee of the BOTB, says he does not care whether the shows are in London or Birmingham, just as long as they are in one place "linked under the umbrella" though he accepts that if they were in Birmingham the handful of "greats" would still show in London. To date the numbers are: Birmingham, about 200, Earls Court, about 200, the London Collections, 70, organized, appropriately in this topsy-turvy world by an Australian, Percy Savage. Incidentally, he was the only person to honour (I mean, pay for, of course) a pledge of greater cooperation between the warring groups by getting together a preview of both London exhibitors and those bound for Birmingham so that journalists might be able to assimilate some of our British news before sprinting off to Milan and Paris. No I am not being sarky, because, yes, I have stayed at home this time after 10 years just to investigate the national scene in depth, because I, too, feel that our industry is teetering. The final group comprises the 26 who come under the wing of Annette Worsley-Taylor and are designated the London Designer Collections. They are showing at the Inn on the Park, and a very bright lot they are, too.

There are two reasons why we find ourselves in this unsatisfactory situation. The first is personal, and it has to do—very much to do—with just that determined individuality which has made our fashion so strong, and yet so fragmented. The fact is that we are so hell-bent on doing our own thing that for all the talk and promises of cooperation, in the end the various groups who find each other congenial, and the other groups unresponsive simply will not come together. Or is it as simple as that? This year, silver jubilee year, there was a real statement of intent to cooperate. The fashion week is even called the jubilee week, and at any rate some invitations have gone out in common form. But what people like Aidan Robinson want is not just one common note, or diary, but one common entrance fee, one common badge, one common list, one set of arrangements, one common catalogue. As I have mentioned, when it came to the crunch, only Percy Savage supported the common preview (though everyone else got garments in) and I am not sure whether to regard this more as disgraceful or heart-breaking.

What complicates the personal and emotional scene, though, is a very straightforward physical one. The Americans and the Europeans have built smashing, flexible, sympathetic exhibition complexes which handle everything from lawn mowers to Bill Gibb. The venues are superb, the choice of facilities is choice—you



Several of the London stores have been showing their spring and summer stocks to the faithful and the passing trade. Simpsons of Piccadilly staged a neat presentation of reassuringly smart, simple and wearable classics, and incidentally deserve a pat for promoting British style overseas by doing a special show for diplomatic wives whose husbands are en poste here from all parts of the world. Harvey Nichols preserved its new high-class image with a collection of great style and verve drawn from the best of current British design talent. Harvey Nichols is now a "must" for shoppers who have heard all about our highly original designers but have found it hard to get a representative cross-section of the current best under one roof. The photographs show some of those looks.

Above left: White broderie anglaise camisole and mini, and jacket, tunic and drawers, by Cherry Fritzel

Above right: Pale pink mohair unlined hooded duffle and coat, by Wetherill.

Left: Pinny fronted dress in print and stripes by Juliet Dunn

Right: Ravishing green and white lilies of the valley print dress by Anna Beltrac

Photographs by Harry Kerr

can shop, bathe, eat, drink, rest, get about, in comfort whatever your pocket. Not only do we have no parallel facilities in London, which in a country so small and with such convenient airport opportunities at Heathrow must be ridiculous, but the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, of which I had great hopes, is now criticized by regulars as expensive, dirty, and uncomfortable. "Lunch there costs £6 for a set three-course meal", Aidan Robinson says, "but if you try for the beer and sandwiches bit you can't get near, or if you can there's nowhere to sit, nowhere to put your bag... the buyers can't take it."

Is there a case for a new venue? In 1971 I remember a lunch with Basil Samuel, chairman and managing director of Great Portland Estates. He had a plan to redevelop a site in the heart of the garment district into flexible units of showrooms, some temporary, some permanent, of different sizes, and exhibition space. That idea died the death because it was too expensive per square foot, the parking was hard, and there were various other planning objections.

Then, Trammell Crowe, he of the Dallas Trade Mart, hatched a plot to do something similar on the docks side of London. He got planning

permission (it still exists, I believe) and he would have put up a site of permanent and temporary showrooms, galleries and exhibition halls, not just for fashion but for all consumer goods. Readers will remember my suggestions for the use of Covent Garden for just such a purpose, though I would have added ateliers and workrooms and studios and an availability of management for sales of design, since so many talents want to say small and on their own, and would have hoped that the Design Council might have been the appropriate sponsors for such a scheme.

... ah, well. The Crowe idea has been "mochballed" by the economic

climate both here and in America. To be fair, but even if it were revived and strengthened, we could not hope to see benefit from it until the 80s, and we need a rough, cohesive policy for selling British fashion now. The Government could help by providing incentives for firms to opt for one venue. Also, they could help by doing what so many other countries do, which is to operate "inward missions" (Aidan Robinson's word) in terms of importing important buyers and reporters, on the budget that they now allocate exclusively to "outward missions." Take it to them, get them to buy it here, surely it is all the same—export?

NEW BOOKS/TWO

The real and the ideal

The Face of Monarchy
British Royalty Portrayed
By Richard Ormond

(Phaidon, £9.95)

State portraiture may seem an unlikely subject to excite the appetite of a sophisticated intellectual audience, but will inevitably be placed in front of it in some profusion this jubilee year.

This account by the Deputy Director of the National Portrait Gallery, Richard Ormond, embraces all media, and starts with William the Conqueror in the Bayeux Tapestry and on coins and the Great Seal, to the cois and the Great Seal, in full glamour of Norman Parkinson studio colour photography, and the Queen lowering, a mite gingerly, the crown on to the kneeling Prince of Wales's head at his investiture, in a Press photo. There is though a fascination in much state portraiture, as in it the perennial conflict that exists in all portraiture between the claims of the real and the ideal, the general and the particular, the symbol of immutability and the specific instance, decisions in flesh and blood, can find its most challenging expression.

It begins with pure symbol, the depiction of an office rather than of the temporary inhabitant of the office: the unindividual head on the coin, but crowned and showing sceptre or sword, symbol of the

country's financial validity; or the hieratic majesty figure on the Great Seal, with the equestrian warrior figure (defender of the people) on the other side. Given a bit more room Mr Ormond might have illustrated profitably sample later stages in the evolution of these images: tied to the functions of their media, they have remained remarkably constant for over nine hundred years. The awakening of the individual within the symbol is consummated of course in the Renaissance, and perhaps most vividly in the flowering of Henry VIII from a grim anonymous princeling in a Gothic niche (in his second Great Seal) into that burly, gorgeous, thrusting individual, unmistakably Henry Tudor, that bursts out from under a Renaissance arch in his third Great Seal. These are not illustrated by Mr Ormond, but full justice is done to Holbein's revolutionary demonstration that majesty can be revealed by superb artistic skill even better than by depiction of crowns, gowns, sceptres and orbs.

With Elizabeth I, in her later years, the solution might swing back to almost pure icon (unfading ideal of the Virgin Queen, for ever beautiful, basking in the sad reality of the ageing flesh), but in Van Dyck Charles I had one of the supreme masters of royal portraiture, in an astonishing variety of presentations well indicated by Mr Ormond. In

quality nothing quite matches that afterwards, though Sir Thomas Lawrence in a much more limited range achieved wonders with the cornucopia of George IV. In variety, the permissible poses and settings had expanded enormously with George III—the royal domesticity initiated by Zoffany; the endless engravings; the popular caricatures (in that case not authorized, and of a frankness, by some like Gilray, that it might prove difficult to publish today).

With Victoria for all the charm of Landseers or Winterhulters, the vividness of record provided by the fast-developing art of photography dims other views, and then the painted state-portrait subsides into effigy, Ermine, crowns, court-breeches, consort awkwardly with the Twentieth century, suggesting fancy dress. The one real exception is Anagnoni's first painting of the present Queen; painted over 20 years ago, its potency is shown by its prevailing hold on the popular imagination for all that the art critics dismissed it. With the Garter cloak of midnight blue casually wrapped about her, the Queen here was enchanted into a vision demonstrating that royalty could challenge, indeed outdo, the most glamorous of Hollywood film stars precisely in glamour—an inestimable service by the artist to the Nation, the Commonwealth and the concept itself of monarchy.

Worse tomorrow Ray Gosling

Instead of the Trees

A final chapter of Auto-biography

By J. B. Priestley

(Heinemann, £3.50)

The reason for the title *Instead of the Trees* is a bit obscure. It has to do with the redwoods of California which Mr Priestley took great fancy to in the 1930s. But I did think after reading this "final chapter of autobiography," and looking again at the title, how generous of the papermills to provide trees for the printing of this old man's doge.

"Today is bad, tomorrow will be worse." And from a comic writer they're not very funny. Are they as bitter, then, as the later Alexander Pope?—Not at all—Priestley is good humoured with his bad temper, and so honest about himself.

If you think I'm being unkind—read the man himself. That's what this book is. Priestley on Priestley. He can hurt himself better than any critic can and he has been "amusing himself" reading himself. What he thinks of his reputation rather than the business of *The Good Companions* to the timing for publication of *Festival at Partridge*, and taking proper pride in the popularity of his glossy books of recent years.

The essays are not presented in any critical order. It's a wild forest: not a plantation:

a clutter of essays: a jumble sale of a book.

I enjoyed it like the curate's egg.

The essay on actresses I thought was good. On airports I wish I'd written myself. A very perceptive piece on Cambridge: but very. A measured, measured, measured piece of writing, while his come in all sizes. There are a few pages written with serious sincerity.

All other pieces are written in an appalling great grumpiness of style. Lots of bland boostings: "I have painted on every continent except Antarctica." Getting grumpy about the fact that he is getting grumpy. "I may be unsufferable but not that insufferable." And he devalues himself. He says things that are not true. He comes on with such platitudes. Broadly sweeping against "a world in which too many people don't know who they are, why they are here, and where they are going."

And the book is full of petty conceit. He's so afflicted with blimp's disease it has softened a tough mind. I think he's better than that, and showed it in *The Image Men*. I think he has something important to say and devalues himself constantly calling himself a "flabby misanthrope." His words: these are. Like a great mea culpa on every page. I have been bored in Somerset and amused in Pittsburgh. If I am now a dissatisfied grumpy old man, it serves me right.



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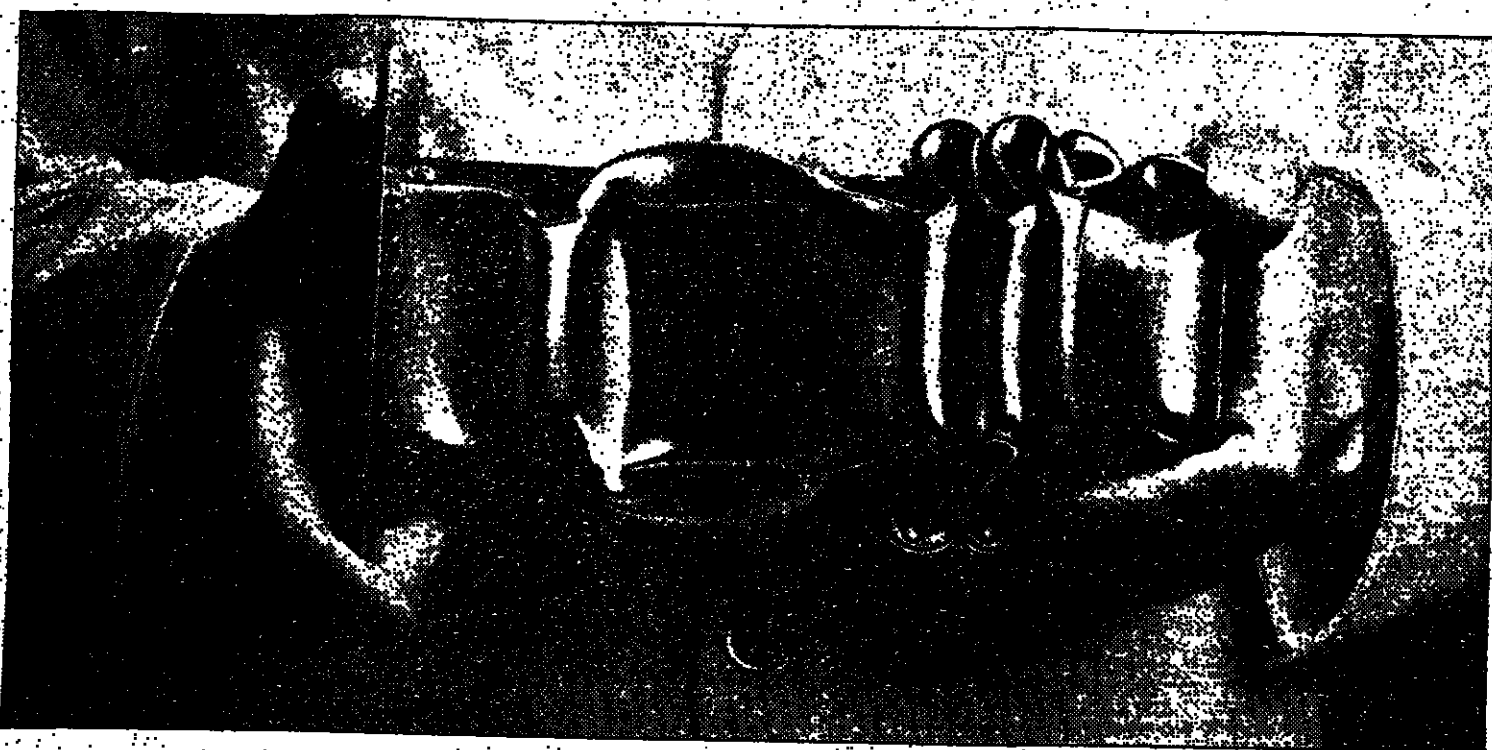
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AUTUMN/WINTER 77

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Ronald Butt

The great TUC bluff: is it working too well for the health of democracy?

The political cliff-hanging with which the week opened revealed straight away, and with startling clarity, the nature of the campaign that would be mounted against the Conservatives, whenever the election came.

First, there was the barely veiled threat by union leaders that a Conservative government would be one with which they would not be able to live at peace because of the nature of its policies.

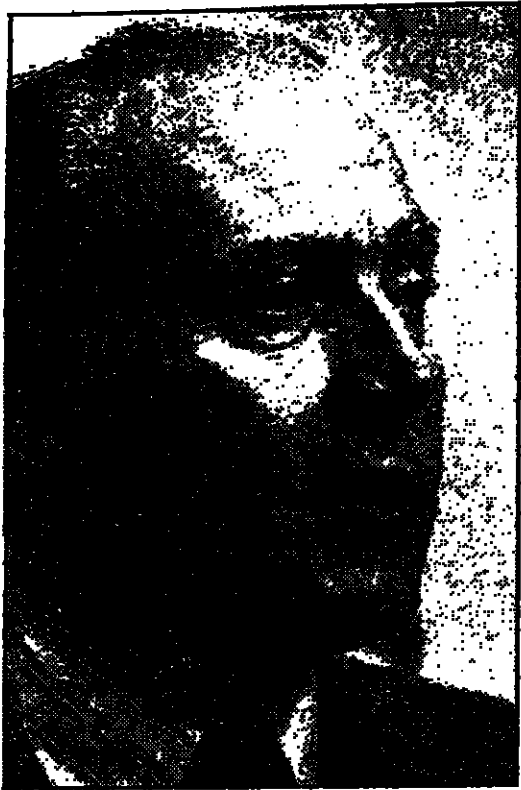
Secondly, there was the related assertion by Labour MPs that if the Liberals were responsible for putting Margaret Thatcher in power she would preside over the "most reactionary" Conservative government the country has ever known. One Labour MP, talking on television with Mr Cyril Smith, could be heard questioning bringing the phrase into his answers in a manner designed to achieve precisely the same effect as a television advertising slogan.

The attempt by the trade union leaders to spread public alarm and despondency at the prospect of renewed strife between a Conservative government and the unions was, naturally, pre-empted by the ritual saving clause that, of course, the unions were prepared to work with any government.

But thereafter, character and were recited by leaders as varied as Mr Tom Jackson and Mr Lawrence Daly, and Mr David Bassett and Mr Jack Jones to show that in practice there would nevertheless be trouble.

The exchanges between the Conservative leadership and the unions, it was said, had achieved no meeting of minds, except possibly to identify a certain relationship between the unions' idea of free collective bargaining and Sir Keith Joseph's concept of the free market. (Actually, I should have thought that this was rather a major exception to their general thesis but we will let that pass.)

In general, the union leaders have been saying, the Conservative policy of cuts in public expenditure, which would mean unemployment, and the Conservatives' reluctance to try to control prices, would mean that a Conservative government might be all right for them, as they would only be in opposition (by which I suppose he meant that, and from the restraints of office, Labour could relax into its normal opposition posture of irresponsibility) the unions "would



David Bassett, Margaret Thatcher and Jack Jones: no meeting of the minds?

have to cope with chaos on the factory floor."

In other words, the unions are again staking their claim to determine public policy, including the level of public spending, which are outside their own proper area of pay and conditions, and to make orderly industrial relations depend on their getting their way.

The union leaders' reactions in the last few days have been such that the ordinary citizen and voter may well ask himself whether there is any aspect of government policy over which the union leaders might not claim to hold a veto on the grounds that it is of concern to their members as trade unionists (as distinct from as citizens).

We are, in fact, back to the question which was the ultimate stumbling block for Mr Edward Heath when he was trying to do a deal with the unions, and quite rightly refused to "trade" with them items of policy which had been in the Tories' election manifesto, and which it could fairly be argued the Conservatives had been elected.

It is odd, it is not, how it has been that, for the minority Labour Government to say, when faced with a check to any of its policies: "It's in the manifesto." Yet for the

Tories in office to be able to argue on behalf of their policies or industrial relations or housing subsidies on the grounds that these were in the Tory manifesto apparently cuts no ice with the trade union leaders at all.

This is, therefore, an appropriate moment for every citizen to want to know whether the unions are claiming the right to veto the Conservative manifesto and to stop an elected Conservative government from putting it into effect.

At the moment they are coming close to saying that no Tory government should be elected until the Conservative Party has adopted more or less Labour policies, since these are the policies of which the TUC approves and are therefore something approaching a condition for industrial peace.

If this is really so, it would be as well for the General Council of the TUC to have done with the ambiguities and to issue its guidelines for an acceptable manifesto, so that the nation as a whole can determine whether it accepts the principle that, henceforth, only a Labour government will be allowed to govern.

But of course, it is not so. Perhaps it would be safer to say that I hope it is not so, but I prefer to assume that the

unions remain democratic organizations which will accept the verdict of the people in every election. Let us, indeed, assume that the union leaders are merely, for the moment, bluffing in the hope that the voters will be frightened enough to vote Labour whether they want to or not, for fear that if they do not there may be a union-Tory conflict leading to dangerous social and industrial unrest.

The trouble is that the bluff has shown signs of working too well for the health of our democratic life. Why did share prices fall so sharply on Monday in the City? Not because, all things being equal, the City would prefer Labour policies, but because its first reaction was to fear the industrial and social consequences of a Tory government which the unions might not allow to govern.

And that is a very timorous and cowardly, not to say, unrealistic, attitude to strike, for it comes near to wishing the electors to buy industrial peace by voting Labour, which would be to surrender the right to democracy and free enterprise far graver than could be risked by facing some kind of accounting day with the trade unions at the appropriate parliamentary moment.

There is, in fact, no good

reason why the Tories should not get on with the unions, and nothing in their policies that needs to create conflict. And, of course, a Conservative government would recognize the special concern of the unions about unemployment; such a government would be bound to share in that concern if only for electoral reasons.

A Tory government would naturally want to discuss problems affecting employment with the unions. But in the end it would be for the Government itself to decide what policies should be adopted for the sake of the long-term economic health of the nation, of which the level of unemployment and industrial activity is a part.

Nor is there anything in the present Tory policy on income tax which should create conflict: let us remind ourselves what it would be. It would start from a decision by the government, taken in the light of all other considerations, such as the level of investment, the rate of money supply and the public borrowing requirement, about what level of wage increases the country can afford. This would be fixed in percentage terms.

Then, so far as the government's own employees were concerned, it would fix cash limits, for state industry and for government departments,

based on the announced wage increase figure, leaving each industry to determine for itself, within its own structure, how that money would be proportioned. So, as the private sector was concerned, the government would consult and educate; it would try to talk people out of foolishness, and, in the end, it would be involved in arbitration. But it would not again get into the business of enforcement.

It would be a lighter incomes policy than the present Government is attempting but perhaps not much lighter than Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey will achieve since the prospect is that, whatever stage 3 they get, will progressively break down as the next year goes by.

As for economic and industrial management, the Tory approach is realistic, as well as based on the political control that the advance of the public sector has to be arrested. Some kind of National Enterprise Board (by whatever name) to look after the industries which the Government has already taken over, and to deal with the lame ducks of the future where a political decision to support them is taken, will be maintained. But the stringency with which such support decisions are taken is what counts, and so is the Tory commitment that there will be no future state incursions into profitable private companies.

What is there here to worry the unions? Perhaps the inclination of the Tories to diminish the tightness of the apparatus for price control, but even here, it is not declared Tory policy to destroy every form of price control so long as anything like an interim incomes policy is still asked for. Perhaps cutting public expenditure, but will be so unpopular to do this in terms of running costs rather than on the capital side?

In the end, a policy that is aimed at growth and to get us out of our present dispiriting mess cannot be unpopular with the unions. It is properly put over.

Meanwhile, what matters more than the detail of policy is that the voting nation should not allow itself to be intimidated by threats and bluff against voting according to its true mind. When it is required to vote on political verdict, it should do so on what it takes to be the merits of the argument, not out of fear of the strong-arm tactics of the over-mighty subjects of the TUC.

A nation that allows itself to recoil with fear from the willingness to allow its chosen government to govern does not deserve democracy nor is likely for long to continue to enjoy it.

All the strine you want, cobber, from jackaroos to Woop Woop



Ozzy: Hi there, pommie, why are you looking like a kookaburra that has swallowed the kangaroo?

Pommie: A new dictionary of Strine has been published today by the Oxford University Press. So at last I shall be able to understand what you are saying. If you will speak a bit more slowly, old chap.

Ozzy: Even Blind Freddy can see what I mean with a dictionary, cobber. You are the one that talks funny, as if you had a tube of frozen Foster's stuck in your windpipe. But what do these drongos beyond the black stump at Oxford University know about Oz?

Pommie: The dictionary was edited in Australia by a genuine Australian, the late Professor Crahan Johnston of the Australian National University. It is the first serious attempt to provide an up-to-date guide to the English language as spoken in Australia and Earl's Court.

Ozzy: She'll be apples then. For a moment back there you gave me the dingbats, to think of high-falutin' pommie bastards high-barring our beautiful Australian language. Does this bull artist put in all our words?

Pommie: It appears to cover the Antipodes comprehensively. There are all the outback words from the backblocks to the back of beyond and Woop Woop. There is a conspicuously large group of words indicating how important sheep are and have been to the country's economy, from jackaroos to bare-bellies. There are, of course, the names of all the Australian fauna and flora.

Ozzy: But does this bonzer dictionary have the Strine that the ordinary man in the Cambera omnibus uses?

Pommie: It seems to cover faithfully all the Australian secular religions and preoccupations from the Art Union to the trivia and from bikies to beer-ups. It is particularly sound on the prolific and vigorous indigenous slang.

Philip Howard

Turkish leaders seek an early election to break the extremists' grip

Turkey's two principal parties, the Justice Party of the Prime Minister, Mr Suleyman Demirel, and Mr Bülent Ecevit's Republican People's Party, want elections in June in the hope of winning an absolute majority that would end the Government's crippling dependence on the small, mostly extremist, parliamentary groups.

But many Turks feel that, as in the elections of 1973, neither party will secure a working majority to give the country the strong and effective government it needs to cope with the mass of internal and external problems besetting it.

For the past four years the Deputy Premier, Mr Necmettin Erbakan, and his group of Islamic extremists, the National Salvation Party, have held the balance of power in the 450-seat National Assembly. This party controls today 48 seats against the JP's 166 and the RPP's 189, with the result that since 1973 Mr Erbakan has dictated government policy in Turkey more than any other leader.

When the JP formed a coalition

two years ago with the NSP as well as with the militant neofascists of Colonel Turkes's National Action Party, and the moderate Republican Alliance Party of Professor Feyzioglu, political prophets in Turkey gave it a life of no more than a few months.

That it survived longer than the Ecevit-Erbakan coalition of 1974, is a tribute to Mr Demirel's skill in this sort of political game. But the cost has been high and the Prime Minister now feels the time has come to cut his losses.

Mr Erbakan has tried to build up his party's image as the watchdog of the nation's imperilled interests against the guard of the traditional values of Islam, and the vanguard of economic progress. If this wins him votes, they will inevitably come from the JP's conservative supporters.

What Mr Demirel is doing is to put Mr Erbakan in a position where he has not only sought to monopolize the credit for the Government's economic achievements, but, through frequent threats of toppling the coalition, this anti-western leader managed to dominate the

Government's foreign policy, blocking a Cyprus solution or efforts to improve relations with the EEC.

Mr Demirel, therefore, has good reason for wanting to advance the election date from October 9 to June 5 or 12. This would eventually deprive Mr Erbakan of the opportunity of electioneering as Deputy Prime Minister, a distinct advantage, all the more so as the October elections would have come at the end of the Ramadan fast.

Besides, if elections were advanced, the Justice Party would avoid the risk of the blame for this year's harvest which may turn out to be not so good as in the two preceding boom years.

Mr Ecevit believes that the longer the present coalition stays in power, the greater the benefits for his party. But he is willing to help Mr Demirel out of this predicament in return for certain guarantees, such as action to stop the wave of political violence that has already taken more than 100 lives in the last two years, and has disrupted university education in Turkey.

The RPP leader evidently believes that if, in this way, he can share the credit for ending the curse of senseless murders, his party would gain support from the moderate right and the left, and would enhance its chances to win a majority in the National Assembly.

The two rival parties have already had some initial contacts on technical electoral questions, but they still eye each other with suspicion, afraid to make the first move to advance the election date.

Turkish political leaders agree that the next election campaign will be dominated by domestic issues, although the opposition still claims that the Government will certainly raise such emotional issues as the Aegean dispute, relations with the US, and to a lesser degree, Cyprus.

Terrorism has, of course, become a major problem for Turkey's public security and education. Few universities are not plagued by campus violence and several faculties have to suspend lessons frequently. The Government blames this civil war on left-wing militants

and accuses Mr Ecevit of encouraging them.

Mr Ecevit himself believes that it is Colonel Turkes's right-wing commandos who try to assert their domination in universities and provoke clashes. They are then spared the consequences because their leader is a Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Ecevit says: "These things do not happen in any other civilized country of the world today. There are countries where people are arrested for their opinions, tortured, put to psychiatric clinics, but they are not killed. This has become a daily event in Turkey. The police, he added, are afraid to arrest the thugs, but they are expected to take action against people the Government protects."

Mr Demirel seems to believe that after two years of sustained economic growth at more than 7 per cent, and a per capita income that Government officials expect to rise above \$1,000 at current prices this year, his party could easily sweep the polls. "Our aim," he said earlier this month during an inaugural speech for

Malaysia's new university, "is to place Turkey among the first 10 countries of the world."

The opposition scoffs at this grandiose and points to the 20 per cent inflation rate, the dwindling foreign reserves, the recurrent lira devaluations, and the spectre of three million unemployed as an embarrassing 2.4 per cent annual population increase.

Political analysts in Ankara agree that failure by either of the big parties to win a majority in the next election could have serious consequences for the country's stability.

Some Turkish politicians point out that the Constitutional Court could step in and outlaw the NSP for engaging in "anti-secular activities," just as it had done with its predecessor, the National Order Party, again led by Mr Erbakan, after the military intervention in 1971.

They argue, however, that the present generation of Turkish generals opposes military interference in politics, although foreign diplomats do not altogether rule out action by some military or Atatürk's principle of secularism continues to be flouted by this pro-Islamic party or if the election results promise another four years of government instability.

The two big parties might also emulate the NSP if they agreed to replace the present system of proportional representation with one that would favour the bigger parties and would produce majority governments.

Mr Demirel would welcome such a development since it would eventually allow his party to absorb the smaller rightwing groups which, together, polled more than 15 per cent of the national vote in 1973.

The reform, however, is opposed by Mr Ecevit's group in it the threat of polarization in a country where politics arouses passions. He explained: "The fringe extremists on the right and the left would try to

infiltrate the major parties and thus eventually come to influence their policies heavily. We should avoid that by convincing these groups that they can survive elections on their own."

Mr Ecevit, like Mr Demirel, is confident that he can win the 26 assembly seats that he needs to run a one-party government. But many Turks doubt that there will be any drastic change in the composition of Parliament, so that the big parties will again have to rely on the small groups in coalition.

"We must learn to live with minorities and minority governments," Mr Ecevit said. "Perhaps we should establish a moral code so that small parties do not take undue advantage of their power."

Mario Modiano

The Times Diary

Dipping a toe in the Great Debate

which were the subject of the recent clash. Many correspondents felt they were slanted, and began using military metaphors to support their case. "Let's have facts that are impregnable," cried the man from the Daily Mail. "I'll throw hand-grenades with you but let's know what's in the hand-grenades. Someone else spoke about 'putting rank-traps down' and I began to feel uneasy."

I left pondering the words of the representative of a teachers' union. "Rhetoric," he said, "ends by parodying itself." So does a Great Debate, usually.

Special offer

P. H. Simplicissimus, my political correspondent, reports on the breathless countdown to last night's crucial Commons division.

The outcome of the vote was in doubt until the last moment with James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, engaged in some frantic wheel-dealing with anyone who had a vote to sell and would come to hear his offer. It has been a hectic few days for him, with the bargaining interrupted by an appearance on children's television, where he was inter-

viewed by a sports reporter about "My Job".

I snatched a word with Callaghan last night just before the dramatic vote. He looked beaten and avuncular as usual, even attempting a joke. "You must excuse me," he quipped. "I've been horse-trading all day and I'm feeling a little hoarse."

I asked him whether the concessions he was offering involved breaking any of his party's cherished principles. "Bless me," he said, "when a party has been in power for three years there are precious few principles left. No problem there."

How about the Tribune Group? Would they not object to any watering-down of Labour's programme? The Prime Minister smiled. "You know," he said, "Tribune groups are no different from the rest of us. If you scratch one, you'll find that, underneath that wind and rhetoric is a sincere desire to stay in office at any price."

As for the terms, I understand that the Ulster Unionists have been offered immunity from parking tickets and an increase in seats that will make them the largest party in Parlia-

ment. "I think we all have a lot to learn from the way Northern Ireland has been governed these last few years," Callaghan said. A separate deal has been done with Powell, under which the Government will officially declare Keynesian economic theories invalid, and withdraw from the European Community.

The negotiation with the Liberals has been the most difficult. Sources say that the issue hardest to resolve was David Steel's insistence that, as part of the package, John Pardoe should be sent out as Governor of the Pitcairn Islands, or somewhere of equivalent distance. Callaghan stood firm against this, as he had already offered the post to Reg Frendrick.

Thespian

Harold Macmillan, his stylish presence and wit undimmed by his 83 years, made one of his increasingly rare public appearances yesterday to open an exhibition of the history of printing at Hatfield House, the home of his old friend and colleague, Lord Salisbury.

In a short opening address punctuated by the characteristic myopic peering at his notes, Macmillan recalled that his real career had been as head of the family publishing firm. He talked knowledgeably about modern printing processes, and expressed a particular interest in calligraphy ("which for my Harrovians here means fine writing").

Aha, but I read the leaky



At a lunch in the great hall of Hatfield House, Macmillan refused to discuss anything fairly political when reporters asked his opinions about the impending vote of confidence in the Commons. "The Government is going to win by 20 votes," he growled. "It said so in my Daily Telegraph this morning." He gave a flat "no" to an American radio reporter who asked if he would care to give his views on President Carter.

Axed

Last month I reported the rumour in clandestine circles that, in pursuit of a fierce ideological struggle, a Leftist faction known as the Clause 4 Tribune Young Socialists had taken to distributing propelling pencils capped with little ice-picks. Few will need reminding that this was the weapon used in the murder of Trotsky, and the gesture was said to be directed against the Trotskyist Militant group.

I could, however, find no confirmation of the rumour, and I invited readers to investigate it for me. I have now received the accompanying photograph from the news editor of The Warwick Boer, a Warwick University's weekly newspaper.

He says that Warwick is the mailing centre from which Clause 4 material is sent out. A leading member of the group, who is a student there, claims to have started the fashion by sending these pens (not pencils) to colleagues in the National Organization of Labour Students at Christmas.

It needs little licence to describe the caps as ice-picks, and they are more like pick-axes, and they are part of a range of pens featuring mascots of agricultural and other imple-



ments emanating, according to my source, from a shop in Watford which appears to have gone out of business. So they are something of a collector's item.

Mock-up

Courtaulds, the manufacturers of man-made meat and woolly jerseys, have introduced the greatest advance in convenience food since the invention of sliced bread. Ladies and gentlemen, artificial roast beef.

Until now soya bean protein, used as a meat substitute, has been available only in the form of dried granules, and has had to disguise itself in this or that mince or among little lumps of stewing steak. Now scientists have found a way of keeping the moisture in, spinning it to give it a fibrous texture, and adding colour and flavour to give it all the appearance of having come from a real live bullock. A curiously shaped bullock, admittedly, because the stuff is being sold in long round tins.

For extra realism, the makers have added some real beef fat round the edges, which will not please those vegetarians who

have found Kesp a useful substitute for meat. To complete the illusion at the launching, Courtaulds displayed a bar of beef made from a real cow's ribcage, packed with Kesp, to drink, they served a 1969 Gelsweiler Bourgogne Rouge, made from real grapes.

The Courtaulds men do not like their product described as artificial. Michael J. Lambert, head of the soya spinning mill, said: "We are not trying to sell this as a cheap substitute. It will, admittedly, work out about 25 per cent cheaper than beef, but is just as nutritious and more convenient. You do not have to cook it. It is the first soya bean product which you can slice."

The beef-style soya will sell to wholesalers at about 50p a pound, and will be available only to caterers for the present, with most of it going to schools, hospitals and other institutions. Courtaulds boast that they already sell enough of the dried Kesp to make 20 million school meals a year, the equivalent of 10,000 cows. But it would not fool anyone: apart from its perfect cubular shape, it means little of beef but much of Oxo cubes—a taste, I fear, we shall have to get a lot more used to.

Puzzling intelligence from the 11.30 news on BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday night: "There is no evidence to show that women take part in marriages of convenience on any major scale."

PHS



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LIB-LAB LIFE BELT

The bargain that has been struck between the Government and the Liberal Party is specifically designed to last until the end of the present parliamentary session, when it will come up for review. By then it should have served its purpose. What will that purpose be? In the first place, this agreement will ensure that phase three of the incomes policy will be negotiated by the present Government, successfully or otherwise. That is desirable in the national interest, whatever the outcome of those negotiations. A Labour Government stands the better chance of reaching an accommodation with the unions, and there will be less political and economic damage if it is such a Government that fails. The next Conservative Government will find itself in a position which might be termed a 1951 situation in that one of its principal tasks will be, as it was then, to wipe away painful memories and to reassure the public that a Conservative administration can run the country without damaging conflict with the unions. That task may well be less daunting than many people suppose, but it will certainly be easier now that Conservative Ministers will not find themselves the moment they take office wrestling with the unions over what is always the most difficult stage in any incomes policy.

The second advantage to be derived from this agreement is that it provides further assurance that during this period there will be no legislation or

other new government policies offensive to centre opinion in this country. The logic of parliamentary arithmetic was already a sufficient guarantee against the introduction of extremist legislation. Now the safeguard is more general and more formal, though it is based on the same political reality. By its nature such an arrangement is likely to be of more negative than positive value. The Government is not committed to accept the views of the Liberals—indeed, it could not be without in effect handing over the responsibilities of office to them—while Liberal ideas will be examined in the new consultative committee, there can be no expectation that many of them will be accepted. But Ministers will know that in pushing forward their own proposals there is a point beyond which they cannot go if they are to retain Liberal support.

There is one important area, however, where Liberal ideas have already under the terms of this agreement had a positive effect on policy. A Bill to provide for direct elections to the European Parliament will now definitely be presented to the House of Commons. That is a considerable advance towards honoursing an obligation that the British Government has to the other members of the EEC. The danger had previously been that such a Bill would be introduced only if it had the approval of a majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party, which would be by no means certain even though there is undoubtedly a

majority in the House of Commons as a whole for the principle of direct elections. Mr Callaghan's speech yesterday carried the clear implication that these would be conducted by proportional representation, and he promised a free vote for Labour members, so there can be no assurance that it will be passed. But some form of proportional representation is definitely the right system for direct elections, even if a number of MPs do not like it, and the prospects for these elections are now distinctly brighter.

This and other compromises will no doubt impose considerable strains on the internal cohesion of the Labour Party in the months ahead. The pressures on ministers will be increased by the need to conciliate on another front. But that is a fact of life for a minority government, and the fragmentation of the House of Commons in recent elections because of the rise of Nationalist and regional parties has made it probable that parliamentary combinations of this kind would become necessary. This is, therefore, a development of some consequence in modern parliamentary history. Whether it will be more than a short-lived expedient will be determined by the end of this year. The history of Labour government depending on Liberal support is not encouraging. The experience of 1924 and 1931 suggests that it can all too easily end in confusion and recrimination. But it will be enough if this arrangement serves its purpose for the next few months.

MR JENKINS SHOULD BE THERE

This weekend the twentieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome will be marked by a meeting in Rome of the "European Council"—that is, a summit meeting of the political leaders of the nine member states of the European Community. Apart from its purely commemorative aspect, the main business of the meeting will be to prepare for the broader summit meeting of leaders of the industrialized Western world which is to be held in London on May 8 and 9.

The need for international agreement on an economic strategy for escaping from the present world recession is glaring, and there is very far from being a common European position on the question as yet. (The West German government has so far resisted the earnest pleas for reflation from its allies and partners.) So there is plenty of serious discussion of substantive issues to be done. But unfortunately much time is likely to be consumed and much good will to be eroded by a tiresome procedural issue, namely whether Mr Roy Jenkins should take part in the London summit or not.

The smaller members of the Community are haunted by a constant fear that their larger partners, instead of working to strengthen the role of the Community institutions in which all are represented, will take to settling all issues of importance among themselves and will arrogate to themselves the right to speak for "Europe" to the outside world. This fear is not

wholly unjustified, especially in so far as it concerns those member states who still set store by a somewhat anachronistic "great power" status (France, and to a lesser extent Britain). The objection of the small states to any suggestion that the Community could be run by a three or four-power directorate is quite understandable, and their need for reassurance on this score has to be met.

The small states are suspicious, therefore, of economic "summits" in which Britain, France, Germany and Italy participate while they do not. They voiced their suspicions after the Rambouillet summit in November 1975 and again before the Puerto Rico summit last June. They were not satisfied with the suggestion that the chairman of the Council of Ministers (then M. Thorn, of Luxembourg) and the president of the Commission (then M. Ortoli) should attend as observers. In the end the Community as such was not represented at Puerto Rico at all. It was followed by a nasty row among the members, at the end of which it was agreed that a regular procedure for such occasions should be worked out.

This agreement in principle, like so many, has not been followed up, with the predictable result that the same nasty row has now broken out again. The small states are not demanding invitations for themselves—they realize that that would make the meeting too unwieldy and defeat its purpose of an informal and confidential exchange of views.

But they are insisting that the Community as such should be a full participant in the meeting, represented not only by the chairman of the Council of Ministers (who, in the person of Mr Callaghan, will be there anyway) but also by the President of the Commission, Mr Jenkins. The British, Germans and Italians have no objection to this—or if they have they are not prepared to voice it publicly. But the French, historically jealous of any attempt by the Commission to play a political role, are digging in their heels. "The Community has no place in this sort of meeting where heads of government are exchanging views, but where there are no decisions to be taken," said M. de Giscard, the French Foreign Minister, earlier this month.

This argument is really very weak, and it is a pity that the British Government as chairman has taken refuge in a timorous neutrality. The Community is, after all, an economic community, and it is in economic matters that the Commission has competence. The French themselves insisted on Britain allowing itself to be represented by its institutions in the North-South economic dialogue—which, along with the Tokyo Round (where, again, the Community negotiates as a community), will be among the main topics of the London summit. The Community as such should take part in the London discussions, in the interests not only of its smaller members but of Europe as a whole.

NO STATUTORY TIME-OFF TO PRAY

Following the spate of recent well-publicized cases confirming Lord Denning's status as the most innovative, even radical, judge of recent times, it comes as something of a surprise to find him, in his judgment on the Muslim teacher, propping up a "strict constructionist" viewpoint, leaving it to Lord Justice Scarman—himself no mean innovator—to carry the banner of judicial development. The issue raised by the case is, however, of more than merely legal interest. Shorn of its technicalities, the question which the Court of Appeal had to answer is one which arises in a variety of circumstances throughout the country: to what extent need, or should, employers allow employees with strong religious convictions time off from work for the purpose of worship or whatever other acts of observance are laid down by their religion? That is itself part of a broader issue, highly relevant to today's multi-racial and multi-religious Britain. How far can the indigenous population be expected, or be obliged, to make concessions and exceptions for the new communities, with their different cultures and beliefs. The controversy over the wearing

of motor-cycle crash helmets by Sikhs was one example of the difficulties encountered in deciding where to draw the line.

That issue went in the end in favour of the Sikhs, who are now legally exempt from wearing the helmets that everyone else in the country who rides a motor-cycle has to wear. The Muslim teacher was not so successful. He had claimed that his employer's refusal to allow him time off from his duties for about 45 minutes every Friday to pray at a neighbouring mosque amounted to religious discrimination, contrary to the Education Act, 1944, and to the European Convention on Human Rights. Lord Denning (backed by another judge), rejected that argument, and in doing so said, perceptively: "It would do the Muslim community no good, or any other minority no good, if they were to be given preferential treatment over the great majority of the people. If in the name of religious freedom they were given special privileges or advantages it would provoke discontent, and even resentment among those with whom they worked. And so the cause of racial integration would suffer."

But where does "preferential treatment" begin? It can be argued that no one is forced to take on employment which does not fit with his religious duties, but that if he does so he must either be prepared to lose part of his pay for the time taken off, or make up for it by working later or through lunch-hours. Indeed, in many offices and factories, that is precisely what some Muslims (and Jews) do. That is not possible, however, in a profession, such as teaching, where the hours are determined by the attendance of other people, for instance pupils, at the place of work. There is no easy solution, and no single legal principle can distinguish between legitimate and laudable toleration and accommodation of alien customs and the granting of unfair preferential treatment to minority groups. It is essential for the sake of racial peace and harmony that those groups and individuals wanting concessions should not pitch their demands too high, and that those in a position to grant them should be seen to be sympathetic and flexible, but careful of the consequences of seeming to give too much away.

EEC Sugar Fund

From Mr Michael Shersby
Sir, The ingenuity of Professor John Yudkin (March 19) in taking up almost any cause, including the EEC Sugar Fund, to pursue his anti-sugar obsession seems to know no bounds.

On what authority does he state that it would certainly be bad for our health if we increased our sugar consumption by following the recent North American ban on saccharine? Certainly not on the basis of the recent joint report of the Royal College of Physicians and the British Cardiac Society which stated that "At present there is no firm

evidence linking intake of dietary sugar and coronary heart disease and most workers do not regard a high intake of sugar by itself as an important factor in the aetiology of coronary heart disease."

The only certainty is that by his constant attacks on sugar over the years, Professor Yudkin has ensured that it is one of the world's most carefully researched foods and that it has been given a clean bill of health by a number of independent medical institutions of impeccable repute. Those institutions have examined Professor Yudkin's claims, including the allegation that fructose causes abnormal amounts of hormones in the blood, and have not

produced any evidence to show that the fructose moiety is harmful to health.

Moreover it is interesting to reflect that while sucrose is digested to form equal amounts of fructose and glucose, honey—another of nature's oldest sweeteners—when digested also provides fructose and nobody suggests it is harmful to health. On the contrary many people regard it as a health food!

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
MICHAEL SHERSBY,
Director, British Sugar Bureau,
140 Park Lane, W1.
March 22.

The National Trust and Mentmore

From Lord Rosebery
Sir, Helped by my advisers, I have given much thought to the request in the letter you printed on March 15 from the Director-General of the National Trust that I defer the payment of Mentmore for four months, and that the National Trust can work out how much "dowry" would be needed to run Mentmore if it was acquired and handed to the National Trust.

It would be useless to offer a four months stay, if we could not offer a further stay for fund raising. Thus, since we cannot have an auction using tents in the winter, we consider a twelve months postponement. The additional expense of postponing the sale now and holding it in twelve months time would be about £200,000, while the cost of postponing it now and cancelling it next February would be £120,000 more than the expense of cancelling it now.

Both these figures include £75,000 for running costs, including security, provision for repairs, and delay in settling the Estate. In addition, I would have to pay about another £200,000 interest. This assumes (and there can be no certainty) that since negotiations have been started within the three year period, the Treasury would consider the disposal to be within three years. I believe there are precedents for this on a much smaller scale, but it would be difficult to justify within the wording of the Statute.

I understand that it is likely that the National Trust will want an endowment of several million pounds in addition to the amount to be raised to bring the Government's million up to my present offer, plus costs of postponement. It seems so unlikely that this can be raised, that I feel I cannot gamble the very substantial costs of postponing a decision, against the likelihood of success.

I would like to add some information to correct misleading figures that have appeared. My present offer to the Government is house, contents, and 22 acres of land. Additional land would be available at valuation. My offer is based on a gross figure of £44m, plus up to £250,000 for abortive sale expenses. This has been referred to as the £5m offer, since the cash payment for the abortive sale would be approximately £2.7m to me, plus abortive sale expenses of up to £250,000.

This would represent a sacrifice by me of at least £500,000 compared to the minimum I expect to get from auction after taxation and sale expenses. I feel that in this I was being quite generous, although not as generous as some commentators seem to make out.
Yours faithfully,
ROSEBERY,
Mentmore,
Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire.
March 23.

BBC reporting of Ulster

From Mr John Biggs-Davison, MP for Epping Forest (Conservative)
Sir, Your readers will doubtless welcome the assurance Sir Michael Swann gives in his letter of March 22 that the BBC is not impartial as regards the "democratic and undemocratic means" or "between right and wrong".

But the BBC is bound to fail in its "responsibility to make available... a complete and truthful account of the state of affairs in Northern Ireland" if it persists in suggesting that the conflict is not between "democratic and undemocratic" but between "two communities". If this was ever true it is not true now; and to assert it is insulting to the Ulster Roman Catholics who serve and have fallen in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the other security forces.

One might perhaps speak of two "communities": the law abiding and the terrorists, the latter including not only the Provisional IRA but the para-military factions who operate under the cover of "loyalism", like the mafia recently sentenced thanks to the courage and skill of the RUC, whose standing and morale have been jeopardized by the objectionable *Tonight* programme.

The big omission in the BBC Chairman's apology is that he does not make clear where they stand in the struggle of the Northern Ireland people, and indeed the whole United Kingdom, against terrorism. We are entitled to know what steps the Governors are taking to make sure that so powerful a medium is not misused, and its personnel misled, so as to embarrass and inhibit the authority of the law. If the *Tonight* programme is an example, the attitude and guidelines of the BBC in relation to Northern Ireland need drastic revision. I remain, etc, your obedient servant,
JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON,
House of Commons.
March 22.

Rowing at Oxford

From Mr A. R. C. Westlake
Sir, Oxford is doing a great disservice to the cause of rowing by admitting to its crews men who have graduated in rowing at other universities.

This practice operates especially to the disadvantage of young oarsmen from the younger schools, whether they are situated in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth or in foreign lands. These boys have to compete with boys from wealthy schools with long rowing traditions behind them. When they come to Oxford they now find that, in addition, they have to compete with men from other universities who come to Oxford, presumably in order to add another oar to their ample collections.

If Oxford wants to encourage the sport of rowing, let it abandon hypocrisy and offer rowing scholarships open to schools from all parts of the world.

Yours, etc,
A. R. C. WESTLAKE,
Chenctonbury,
Fullers Road,
Rowledge,
Farnham,
Surrey.

Political cost of splitting the Treasury

From Sir Antony Part
Sir, To split the Treasury into two departments would, I believe, serve the interests only of those who wish to weaken it. The split would greatly complicate relations between ministers and the workings of Whitehall generally, and would tend to slow up decision-making process which is already too cumbersome.

There is a superficial attraction in the idea of a Ministry of Finance setting the strategy for financial and economic affairs while other departments, including the department responsible for public expenditure, work within the framework thus established. But this idea has at least three defects.

First, the officials of the Ministry of Finance would be further—some would say even further—removed from reality than they are now. This would be unfortunate at a time when great efforts have been made, both within the Treasury and outside it, to help that department towards a closer understanding of, for example, industrial policy.

Second, even if it were to set the strategy, the Ministry of Finance would be deprived of the leverage represented by control of public funds. The Department of Economic Affairs experiment showed how even a powerful ministerial personality proved unable to overcome this handicap. A new and splendid Whitehall game would develop of playing off the minister in charge of public expenditure against the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Third, with which of these two ministers would other departments deal over policy issues in such fields as defence, industry, agriculture and health? None of these are areas in which public expenditure can be settled once for all once a year, the administration being left to another agency such as the Inland Revenue or the Customs. The very fact that the department responsible for public expenditure would need to be headed by a minister—and a powerful one at that—illustrates the difference. The practical effect would surely be that on numerous occasions both departments would need to be consulted—and not only with each other, but quite often, both ministers. Not a recipe for efficiency or speed.

My own experience in Whitehall suggested that far from being weakened the Treasury should be strengthened, but that this should be done by establishing closer policy links between departments, and by delegating to them more responsibility for the public expenditure for which, after all, their Ministers are responsible to Parliament.

As for the closer policy links,

Panorama's school

From Mrs Gitta Wood
Sir, The *Panorama* programme (March 21) was the first blow struck by the media for truthfulness in the eternal, and now very boring, battle of the education debate. Without compromise and without confrontation between teachers and interviewers, the BBC gave us a picture of a group of pupils who have no voice and are never represented, though endlessly discussed.

As I write the morning after, the radio is already jammed with the voices of entrenched interests, wailing on blame, threatening action and generally fearful for their own positions in the education structure. They, too, ignore the pupils we saw last night.

I would like to express my admiration for the programme, and hope it will become compulsory viewing for every student teacher. It showed so many of my colleagues and I know only too well, that comprehensive education cannot be evaluated because it does not exist; not, as the politicians would have us believe, because a minority of ambitious parents send their possibly able children elsewhere, but because the comprehensive ideal has never been researched, tested and implemented in educational terms as was the reform of our primary school education. Comprehensive schooling has been imposed on teachers and pupils alike as a pupillage and financial superstructure, and as such it has rightly failed.

The programme showed us some of the results of that failure in the desperate boredom, the deep frustration and the deprivations among teachers and pupils alike; those pupils, particularly who are most in need of everything their good schooling should provide. It does not matter any more who is to blame, nor whose pet teaching methods are accepted. If the lesson from the programme could be learnt, perhaps the pupils could teach their elders to stop the infighting and face the real issues involved in the education debate.

Yours faithfully,
GITTA WOOD,
Hartley Close,
Stifford, Leics.,
Grays, Essex.

From Mr and Mrs J. C. Morris

Sir, We write as teachers who have spent the better part of our teaching lives in Acton secondary schools, each about a mile away from Faraday High School which was the subject of last night's *Panorama* programme (March 21). For more than 20 years we have taught in this area. Each of us has taught at every level from first year remedial classes to upper sixth scholarship classes. We can therefore claim to be expert witnesses.

We have met, and we know well, a number of teachers at Faraday High School including some who are former pupils of our own. We respect them as capable teachers. They did not appear in the film. The school is rated as one of "Educational Priority"—teachers are paid above the basic rate for teaching there—as they are in the other Acton High Schools. Yet Faraday High School was presented, without comment, as an "ordinary" or "normal", comprehensive school. But cameras have to be placed. Film has to be edited and the bias of the director was obviously towards the ideology of the "Black Papers", the latest of which, significantly, is due for publication this week.

much has been done in recent years. On delegation of responsibility for public expenditure some progress has been made, but it tends to be inhibited by tradition and by Parliamentary committees which often exert their influence in the opposite direction.

To ease the undoubtedly heavy pressure on the Chancellor of the Exchequer the best solution is, I am sure, to give the Chief Secretary, who is traditionally responsible for public expenditure under the Chancellor, a seat in the Cabinet but to keep him within the Treasury.

Some people believe that the splitting of the Treasury would be a convenient means of dealing with what they see as the problem represented by the Civil Service Department. This problem, they suggest, could be solved neatly by bringing control of Civil Service manpower with control of public expenditure in a single department.

Although as a generalization it is healthy for control of money and manpower to go together, the job of the CSD does not necessarily belong easily with a central department whose principal skills lie elsewhere and whose direct experience of large-scale management is very limited.

I am doubtful about this suggested solution for other reasons. The CSD deal with a great deal more than control of Civil Service manpower, and on that they do not in any case have a decisive say. Those who want to see a smaller Civil Service should concentrate on persuading Ministers to adopt policies that require fewer Civil Servants.

Even without the special stimulus of a Fulton Report the CSD, under the head of the Home Civil Service, has plenty to do: from dealing with top appointments to handling controversial questions of pay and pensions, setting up a proper Staff College, giving guidance on techniques of management and communication, and generally coordinating management activities at a time when management is becoming less and less easy.

The problem is that this work, important though it is, has little political sex appeal and also may well not be so attractive to a Head of the Home Civil Service as the job of, say, Secretary to the Cabinet or Permanent Secretary to the Treasury. If the present situation is thought to call for a change, the solution is not easy. In any event it does not in my view give colour to a case for splitting the Treasury.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY PART,
71 Elm Park Gardens, SW10.
March 22.

In the condition suggested by the film, the education authority, governors and teachers' unions would have demanded an investigation without waiting for an "exposure" from the BBC.

It is cruelly unjust to pillory the incompetence of young teachers on probation without showing how experienced teachers could manage the same group of children. Every mature teacher knows how quickly the "devils" become "saints" under the guidance of a skilled teacher. What experienced teacher would threaten mass detentions from the beginning and so provoke a united opposition or attempt to bring a topic as important as the rise of Prussia without a map or indeed, a knowledge of the text? What experienced teacher would try to teach logarithms without making sure of his supply of log tables or try to teach human biology—especially sex—by dictating "notes"? So long as the great structure in teaching is based on a promotion system which removes the older, experienced teacher from classroom to "administration", the problems of class management and teaching techniques will be intensified.

The film did much to promote unnecessary horror, little to give rise to constructive discussion. It left us with the sad impression that the BBC could teach Goebbels a lesson. Instead of "Choose a big lie and shout it until you believe it," we had "Suggest a half truth and say nothing about it. People will believe the 'evidence' of their own eyes."

Finally—had not Angela Pope's camera a rather selective colour filter?

Yours faithfully,
J. C. MORRIS,
J. C. MORRIS,
Rambler Cottage,
Pifford,
Oxford.
March 22.

From Mr Stephen Corrin

Sir, My own experience as a senior teacher in a north London comprehensive (ex-grammar) school were infinitely worse than those shown in the *Panorama* film of Faraday School. Some of my more junior colleagues must have gone through hell. The noise, insubordination and inattention which the cameras showed prevailing in some of the classes must surely be fairly common throughout most schools—even grammar schools—nowadays. So I feel to see what all the fuss is about.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN CORRIN,
10 Russell Gardens, NW11.
March 22.

Collective noun and verb

From Dr Leonard Arthur
Sir, Your correspondent Mr K. P. Poole (March 1) is against monolithic determinism in matters of grammar, the standardization of which, like the standardization of spelling, has been invented by pedants for the scourging of school children and bureaucrats. In days gone by a more robust attitude prevailed, in which grammar was made for man, not man for grammar. What about this from the Authorised Version?

"There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness." (Proverbs, xxx, 12.)

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD ARTHUR,
Royal Oak Cottage,
Church Broughton,
Derby.
March 19.

Doctors and the economy

From Mr Rudolf Klein

Sir, Perhaps it might be helpful to consider the debate about medical manpower in a wider context—against the backdrop of assumptions about Britain's economic future and the share of national income devoted to the social services. If there is now anxiety about a surplus of doctors, it is largely because views about Britain's economic prospects have changed since the present training programme was drawn up. Much the same is true of teachers and social workers, although in each case special considerations also apply: the possibility of substituting less skilled nurses for doctors, the decline in the birth rate and so on.

But before accepting the arguments for adopting a policy of contraction and contraction for training doctors and other professionals, it may be worth examining some other options for policy. First, if Britain is to achieve more economic growth, this will be done by increasing productivity rather than employment. So the problem will not be an excess of labour in the public sector, but an overall shortage of jobs in the economy as a whole. The cost of employing people in the public sector will therefore, increasingly, be the difference between their earnings and their unemployment benefits.

Secondly, the case for using less skilled labour as a substitute for doctors (or other professionals) is that the former are cheaper. But this is to assume that traditional differentials are inevitable. One answer to a threatened surplus of professionals is to reduce their relative earnings so as to make it possible to employ more of them. Lastly, the main argument against employing more professionals is often not so much the cost of their salaries but the additional expenditure that they generate. If the medical profession, for example, were to devote more attention to reducing these costs—eg, fewer prescriptions, shorter stays in hospital—it would make sense to employ more doctors.

Yours, etc,
RUDOLF KLEIN,
Centre for Studies in Social Policy,
Doughty Street, WC1.
March 23.

Discoveries in Syria

From Sir Max Mallowan, FBA

Sir, In your issue of March 14, Makhadm and Ullendorf did well to draw attention to the important discoveries currently being made at Tell Mardikh-Ebla, northern Syria, and emphasise the importance of exercising caution in the interpretation of the finds and their relation to the Old Testament.

There can, however, be no doubt about the significance of the part played by King Naram Sin about 2300 BC, one of the greatest imperialists of antiquity, who from his capital at Agade, near Babylon, felt himself obliged to destroy Ebla. This episode in the aggressive progress of Naram Sin, under whom Agade reached its apogee, explains the reason for his building a great palace and block house at Brak which served as an important base while he was engaged in his incursions into northern Syria and Asia Minor.

It is to be hoped that in the great archive which has been found at Ebla, the ancient name of Brak will eventually emerge, for this in the last quarter of the third millennium BC was one of the great capital cities of northern Syria. The name of the lake in its vicinity, called by the Romans *Lacus Bebericus*, obviously related to Brak. It will be borne in mind by epigraphists in their efforts to decipher the tablets some corresponding name in antiquity. The discovery at Ebla also encourages us to believe that Brak itself may contain another archive, and this should induce further efforts on rewarding sites which I began excavating over 10 years ago, whether Professor David Oates may be expected to return soon.

Yours faithfully,
MAX MALLOWAN,
Wentworth House,
Wallingford,
Oxfordshire.

John Evelyn's library

From Mr R. C. Latham

Sir, It will be a calamity if Evelyn's library is dispersed. His collection—like that of his friend Pepys—is a library which represents a high moment in the history of English civilization, when learning and literature, the arts and the sciences all formed integral parts of a single culture. To break it up would mean not only the loss of individual items but the destruction of the unity and significance of the whole.

I know from my own experience in the Pepys Library how strong and widespread is the interest which such libraries have for both scholars and the general public. It seems to me, therefore, that there is a very strong case for the library's retention in Oxford. If the Government would make a generous grant for this purpose I am sure its example would be followed by private individuals and corporations.

Yours truly,
ROBERT LATHAM,
Pepys Librarian,
Magdalene College,
Cambridge.

Fattening the calf

From Mrs Pat King

Sir, Is not one answer to the surplus butter stocks to let calves return to the natural feeding method of suckling? We make such poor use of the extra butter we obtain by depriving them and their mothers of this basic right. Apparently even if we eat it ourselves it is bad for us. Perhaps nature knows best after all!

Yours faithfully,
PAT KING,
48 Wrotesley Road,
Tottenham,
Wolverhampton.
March 19.

Law Report March 23 1977

Rent review clauses: presumption that time is not of the essence

United Scientific Holdings Ltd v Burnley Borough Council
Cheapside Land Development Co Ltd v Messels Service Company

Before Lord Diplock, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Salmon and Lord Fraser of Tullybelton
The House of Lords unanimously held that where a rent review clause in a lease stipulated a time for determining the rent, but the steps prescribed had not been taken in accordance with it, there was a presumption that time was not of the essence of the clause and that the clause was to be construed accordingly.

The House of Lords allowed two appeals by landlords against Court of Appeal decisions that on the proper construction of two widely differing rent review clauses time was not of the essence.

In the first, *United Scientific Holdings Ltd v Burnley Borough Council*, the Burnley Borough Council appealed from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Boreham and Lord Justice Goff) which had allowed the council to appeal against the decision of the court below that the council was not bound to determine the rent by the time specified in the lease.

In the second, *Cheapside Land Development Co Ltd v Messels Service Company*, the company appealed from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Goff and Lord Justice Boreham) which had allowed the company to appeal against the decision of the court below that the company was not bound to determine the rent by the time specified in the lease.

The House of Lords held that in both cases the rent review clauses were to be construed as imposing a time limit for determining the rent, but that the time limit was not of the essence of the clause.

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seemed to turn on fine distinctions between the wording of particular clauses so as to classify them, either as conferring on the landlord a unilateral "option" for the exercise of which time was of the essence, or as merely laying down the machinery for the performance of mutual "obligations" by the tenant as well as the landlord, in which case time was not of the essence.

The suggested dichotomy between the so-called "option" clauses and the "obligation" or "machinery" clauses had been discarded in the instant appeals by the House of Lords.

It was not disputed that the parties to a lease could provide expressly for time to be of the essence for all or any of the required steps, and that if they did so the court would give effect to their expressed intention. But many rent review cases now maturing did not contain such express provisions.

What the Court of Appeal had decided was that the commercial nature of the contract and/or the legal nature of the clause granted to the landlord by a rent review clause raised a presumption that time specified in such a clause for anything that was to be done by him was of the essence; and that that presumption would prevail unless there were strong reasons to the contrary.

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otherwise was of the essence of a contract, it placed the burden of proof on the landlord to show that time was of the essence of the clause.

Both in the courts of chancery and common law the rules developed as to the effect of time clauses in leases were based on the principle that time was of the essence of the contract or not, depending on the facts of the case.

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House of Lords

Warning instead of jail for students

Mr Justice Griffiths decided in the High Court yesterday that two leaders of students occupying a London college should not be jailed, although they had broken a court order to end the sit-in.

Amid applause from a hundred students who had crowded into court, he said it would be inappropriate to jail two students, aged 25, president of the students' union at the School of Oriental and African Studies in Malet Street, Bloomsbury, and another former president, Peter Alexander, aged 23.

The judge said he understood the feelings of the students, who had taken passionate exception to government proposals to increase fees. He added: "Anyone is sympathetic with students' views on increased fees and it is understandable that they should have strong feelings."

But that did not mean any significant detriment to the tenant. He could get a pretty good idea of what the market rent was from his own surveyor, or he could himself offer to negotiate with the landlord to replace the rent review clause with a fixed rent.

His Lordship hoped that the decisions of the House would reduce the number of occasions on which the court would be asked to intervene in the running of a business.

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"However much anyone may sympathize with their cause it can be no justification of deliberate breach and defiance of the law."

Both men had spoken of democracy, but no democracy could survive unless the law could be enforced by anyone who felt aggrieved by government policy. Such action would be a negation of democracy.

The occupation had been due to finish at 3 pm yesterday and there was no fixed present intention to resume or continue it in the future. It would be quite inappropriate to jail Mr Hickey and Mr Alexander for breach, the judge said, but they were not likely to meet such leniency in the future.

The college vacation began yesterday and the judge said he hoped that both students and college authorities would be refreshed by the holiday and able to come together next term.

Afterwards Mr Hickey said he regarded the judge's decision as a vindication of the action taken by the students. They had continued their occupation of the college during the holiday.

Professor Charles Cowan, director of the college, said it had been sought to have the students committed because the college had not been told that the occupation was due to end yesterday.

The college was also concerned to ensure there would not be a repetition of the action taken by the students. They had continued their occupation of the college during the holiday.

The college had about 350 students and only about a hundred had taken part in the demonstration. Professor Cowan said it would be decided later whether any disciplinary action would be taken against the demonstrators.

Monopoly of conveyancing defended by solicitors

The British Legal Association, which represents about two thousand solicitors, yesterday attacked a "wild and woolly" wishful thinking" call by the Consumers' Association for an end to solicitors' monopoly in the legal world of buying and selling houses.

The Consumers' Association made the call in evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

Mr Geoffrey Thomas, chairman of the B.L.A., said when they urge consumers to shop around for legal services they do not seem to realize that people already shop around when they do get a divorce, estimates from solicitors, and machinery already exists to challenge solicitors' charges.

Mr Thomas said the B.L.A.'s information officer, said the call for a new body to handle house transfers was unrealistic because it proposed setting up a new multipurpose national bureaucracy which would cost the nation untold millions.

The Law Society said the Consumers' Association proposals would reduce the protection available for consumers. Solicitors' services for house purchase were far less expensive than in most European countries.

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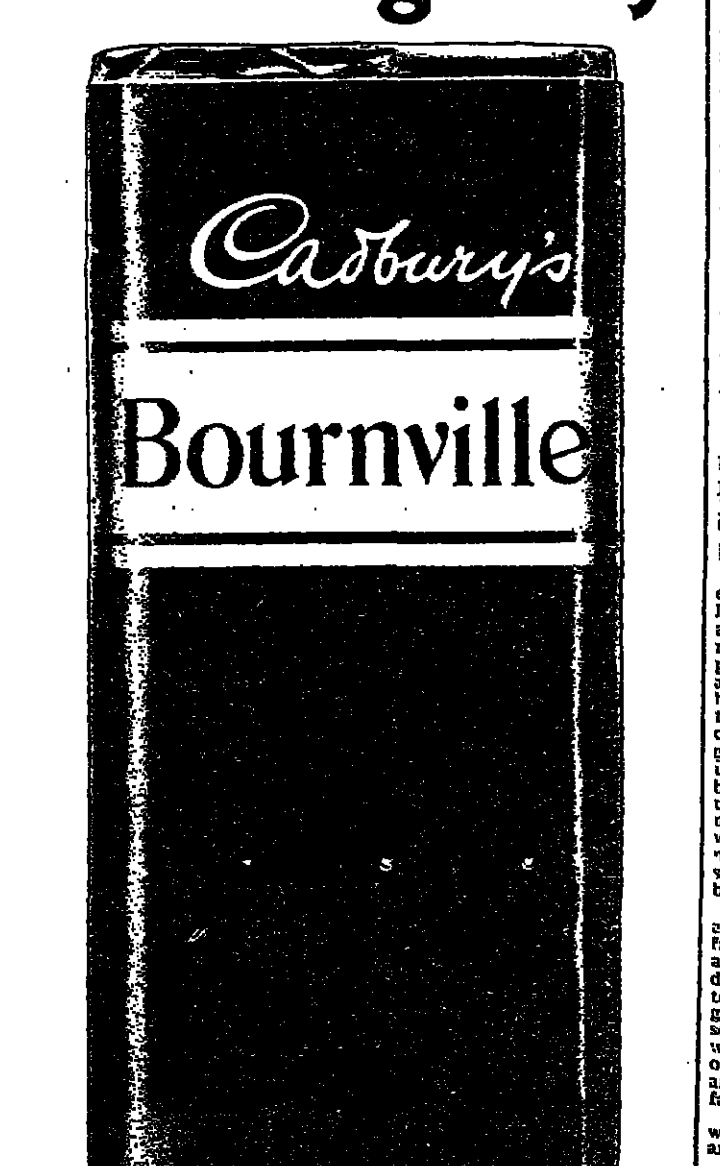
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Untouched by human ingenuity.



It's just plain good.

Queen's Bench Division

Private Eye apology to Lord Weidenfeld

Weidenfeld v Pressdram Ltd and Others
Before Mr Justice Melford Stevenson

Private Eye apologized to Lord Weidenfeld, chairman of the publishing house Weidenfeld and Nicolson Ltd, for publishing on January 9, 1976, a gossip item which suggested that Lord Weidenfeld had attempted to ingratiate himself with Mr Harold Wilson by paying him £250,000 for the right to publish his memoirs so as to secure a peerage.

The defendants were Pressdram Ltd, publishers of Private Eye, and Harold Wilson Ltd, its distributors, and Mr Richard Ingrams, the editor. They withdrew the allegation and agreed to pay damages to Lord Weidenfeld and to indemnify him for his legal costs.

Mr John Previc, for Lord Weidenfeld, said the gossip item in the Grovel column of Private Eye, which suggested that Lord Weidenfeld had attempted to ingratiate himself with the Prime Minister, Mr (now Sir) Harold Wilson, by paying him £250,000 for the right to publish his memoirs so as to secure a peerage, was a gross distortion of the facts.

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Stock Exchange Prices

More ground regained

Account Days: Dealings Began, March 14. Dealings End, March 25. Contango Day, March 28. Settlement Day, April 5
 † Forward bargains are per milled on two previous days.

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BRITISH FUNDS			COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN			LOCAL AUTHORITIES			FOREIGN STOCKS			DOLLAR STOCKS			BANKS AND DISCOUNTS			BREWERS AND DISTILLERS		
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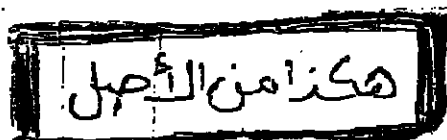
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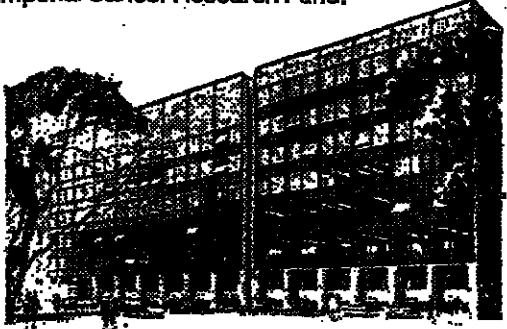
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HOME NEWS

Black Paper on education suggests that inspectorate should return to the task of inspecting schools

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

The great debate on education was a non-debate because it was not discussing the issue of comprehensive schools, Mr Rhodes Boyson, junior opposition spokesman on education, said in London yesterday.

He was introducing the fifth in the series of Black Papers, discussion documents on education, which is published today. Mr Boyson, MP for Brent, North and one of the paper's co-editors, said the regional debates around the country were "axe-grinding" conferences in which those in charge of education for the past 15 years stated how they could overcome difficulties that would not have existed had they not been in charge.

Mr Boyson said that Faraday school, Acton - the school shown in *Panorama* on BBC television on Monday night, was by no means in the bottom division of comprehensive schools. "There was no violence or vandalism in that school, which one knows exist in many city schools."

The Black Paper cites the Prime Minister's speech at Ruskin College, Oxford, last year as support for its cause. It says there was a complete change of heart by the Labour Government, which in 1969 started the first Black Paper off on a wave of success when Mr Short, then Secretary of State for Education and Science, called its publication "the blackest day in education for a hundred years."

The paper's editors say: "Our case is now accepted by all except the fanatical devotees of progressive education, who unfortunately retain too much power in schools and colleges." The paper calls for the national inspectorate to return to the task of inspecting schools. Children should be

allowed to leave school once they have passed a basic test in literacy and numeracy at 14 plus or 15 plus.

That differs from official Conservative Party policy. Questioned about it Mr Boyson said the children would be allowed to leave before the age of 16 only if they had a job or apprenticeship to go to.

Today's Black Paper numbers a lifelong socialist, Mr Ronald Lewis, a probation officer, and a distinguished Liberal MP, Rennie Soakin, among its 25 contributors. Most of the others can be identified with the right wing.

Mr Patrick Moore, one of the more distinguished members of the team, complains about a lack of manners as well as literacy from the teenagers who are now writing to him for advice, compared with those who did so in the past.

Mr Alfred Levy, a mathematics teacher in the East End of London, blames the inspectorate of the Inner London Education Authority for declining standards of numeracy in schools because of their support for crazy methods of teaching mathematics.

Mr Stuart Frooma, a former headmaster and a dissenting member of the Bullock report on reading, charges the Bullock committee with ignoring reports by the late Sir Cyril Burt, the educational psychologist, and by Mr D. Cookson, of Staffordshire County Council, in reaching its conclusion that general standards of reading and English had declined.

Professor Brian Cox, of Manchester University, co-editor of the Black Paper, praises the work of Mr Eric Beard, a retired headmaster, who was in charge of the selection panel that helped to bring about the controversial changes in Tameside last summer.

Mr Raymond Baldwin, chair-

man of the governors of Manchester Grammar School, calculates that successes in public examinations by children at comprehensive schools are not as numerous as successes in grammar and secondary modern schools.

Mr Boyson told the press conference of comparisons in Manchester showing that the percentage of O-level passes a pupil in two thirds of selective voluntary schools had risen by 263 per cent between 1964 and 1976, compared with 44 per cent in the comprehensive county schools.

Mr Baldwin said he preferred that the Manchester figures should not be brought into the argument, since they were being examined by the city's education committee.

Mr Robert Vigers, leader of the opposition group on the Inner London Education Authority writes that less than a quarter of inner London's comprehensive are able to offer courses in even one A-level technical subject, and only about a tenth are able to offer more than one subject.

The Black Paper's demands are familiar right-wing calls for action. The two co-editors suggest national tests for children aged 7, 11 and 14 or 15. The results should be available to parents; but only the results of schools and not the performance of individual children should be published.

The editors call for national monitoring of the results of comprehensive schools. If they were proving less effective than grammar and secondary modern schools local authorities should be encouraged to "diversify" their secondary school provision (ie, return to some kind of selection).

Black Paper 1977 (Maurice Temple Smith Ltd, 37 Great Russell Street, London, WC1, E1.65).

Diary, page 18

Man in the news: Lord Annan, candid reporter Laying the broadcasting ghosts

By Peter Hennessy

One thing was certain about the Annan report, to be published today, from the moment the committee on the future of broadcasting was appointed in 1974: that its prose style would reflect the glib, erudite language of its chairman.

Lord Annan, Provost of University College London, is positively Churchillian in his propensity to become the prisoner of a happy phrase. His was the second draft of the report, written after the civil servants on its secretariat had finished with it. Cracks about Auntie BBC "gathering up her skirts and running are pure Noel Annan."

He is a fine, red-faced man with Cornishian features and a preoccupied manner. He is very good at stimulating passion and fury and uses his language as a pawn in the game of communitarianism.

He has a long pedigree of communitarian and reports dating back to his precocious appointment as Provost of King's College, Cambridge, at the age of 39: the Public Schools Commission, trustee of the British Museum, Director of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, member of the Gubbenkum Foundation, investigator of the disturbances at Essex University, 1974, which produced a highly candid report. They have not succeeded in blunting his style at 80.

With great force he once declared: "When I write, I do not use the bogus officialness of vice-chancellors' language. Bureaucratic language is always used as a soporific. I will not write it."

When his friend Mr Roy Jenkins, then Home Secretary, appointed him nearly three



Lord Annan: "I will not write bureaucratic language."

years ago there was some well justified suspicion in Whitehall that a man with the reputation of a soft-centred, radical chic Liberal would be vulnerable to the fashionable, participatory shabbiness of the time. Broadcasting, like education, is something of which we all have direct experience, hence everybody thinks he is expert on it.

Lord Annan did nothing to diminish the doubts: "I am well known not to be a sound man. There could be no higher praise," he said shortly after his committee of 16 began work.

But there has always been another side to him: the high Victorian, Leslie Stephen side, Stephen being the subject of a brilliant biography he penned after the war.

Lord Annan is a great be-

liever in the essentially Victorian concept of the public authority, of protect and insulate, of direct political interference. While he was chairman there was little danger that the committee would recommend a broadcasting council representative of political and pressure groups or a ministry of communications.

We have got rid of a lot of nonsense. We have laid a number of ghosts," he said this week.

He is intensely proud that a committee of such widely divergent political views and backgrounds could agree on a fundamental strategy for a phenomenon as amorphous as broadcasting, while confining their disagreements (with the one exception of splitting the BBC) to matters of detail or interpretation. It is a strategy he hopes all political parties will feel able to accept.

It cannot all have been plain sailing. His task as chairman, he said, was to prevent people making up their minds before the evidence was in and analysed. When strong opinions were expressed he sent the civil servants away to test them against the facts.

His friends have often told Noel Annan that he should have stuck to writing books and not succumbed to the temptation of a career as a university administrator and member of the "Good and Great." "But I have written a book," he said. "It is the report."

If the Government rejects parts of his report Noel Annan will accept it with his customary fruitfulness. But if anybody tells him it was a boring read, he will be terribly hurt.

Pupils sent home because of damage by vandals

More than five hundred pupils were sent home from Garth Hill Comprehensive School, at Bracknell, Berkshire, yesterday after vandals had caused hundreds of pounds of damage.

The children were turned away as the police sealed part of the 1,600-pupil school for examination.

Paint and clay had been thrown around art rooms and eggs smashed and food spread around the science classroom and a dining hall.

Equipment set up for a Certificate of Secondary Education assessment examination in physics was broken, a £300 film projector smashed and an air rifle stolen from a locked cupboard.

Mrs Alison Evers, the headmistress, said: "It appears to be an attempt to stop the school functioning. The youngsters were absolutely astounded. Their reaction was one of disbelief that anybody could do anything like this."

"Panorama" attacked: Further

Anger over EEC fish quota plan

EEC Commission proposals that apparently would permit France to dominate fishing in waters to the west of the British Isles were described as insulting by British fishermen yesterday.

The British Fishing Federation said the commission wanted to introduce quota regulations for a sea area, largely inside Britain's 200-mile limits, stretching from the western approaches to midway between the Faeroes and Scotland.

They would allow the French to catch 51,000 tonnes of such fish as cod, haddock, whiting and saithe (colley) compared with just over 45,000 tonnes for Britain.

"It is only the vigilance of the Commons all-party select committee on European legislation that has alerted us to the danger," the federation said.

"We have not had time to consider the quotas in detail but a first glance is sufficient to reveal the sheer effrontery of the allocations."

The federation said the proposals would have a serious effect on Aberdeen, Granton, North Shields, Grimsby, Fleetwood, Milford Haven and many smaller ports, particularly in Scotland, which relied on fishing in western waters.

The EEC plan was designed to appease the Irish and might lead to the isolation of the United Kingdom from the rest of the EEC.

The time had come to renegotiate the common fishing policy. Britain should take unilateral action to protect fish stocks, the federation argued. The EEC plan would apparently give France 6,000 tonnes of cod annually in the southern half of the area, Ireland 3,200 tonnes, and Britain 2,800 tonnes.

Sociologists have misled teachers, union chief says

A union leader said last night that many teachers had been misled and intellectually intimidated by sociologists over methods used in schools.

Mr Terence Casey, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, attacked the quality of preparation for young teachers given in training colleges, and said that teachers must accept their share of responsibility for not standing up to the "trendies".

"Far too many of us were less courageous than we should have been and we were intellectually intimidated by these

well qualified nincompoops." Teachers should have had more confidence in their own native wit and experience on the way to teach.

Speaking at a London press conference, Mr Casey joined in the controversy over school standards caused by Monday's BBC *Panorama* film on the Faraday comprehensive school in west London and the latest *Black Paper* criticism of comprehensive schools.

He said young teachers were not taught how to handle difficult children and the basic essentials of teaching the "three Rs".

Big extension of community service plan

By a Staff Reporter

A big extension of the scheme enabling courts to order offenders to do useful work in the community as an alternative to prison was announced by Lord Harris of Greenwich, Minister of State at the Home Office, yesterday.

A further 22 court areas are to be included from April 1; among them will be Coventry, Macclesfield, Brighton, Crawley and Chesterfield. As a result more than three quarters of the population will live in areas covered by the community service scheme, which will be available in whole or in part in 53 of the 56 probation areas in England and Wales.

Under the scheme courts may make a community service order on an offender aged 17 or over who is convicted of an offence for which he or she could be sent to prison.

Lord Harris, speaking to Deputy Lord Harris, London, said the Government was determined to press on with non-custodial alternatives to imprisonment.

"The conditions in the majority of our overcrowded Victorian prisons with their appalling sanitary arrangements are barely tolerable," he said.

BBC 1 to show 'Roots' series

The American record-breaking television series *Roots* is to be shown on BBC 1, beginning on Good Friday, April 8. Each of the six episodes will last 90 minutes.

The series, based on the novel by Alex Haley, traces the history of a black American family from their pre-slavery days in West Africa in 1750.

Yard man denies bribes

By Clive Borrell

Alfred Moody, the former head of Scotland Yard's obscene publications squad, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he once protested to the Director of Public Prosecutions because he had refused to prosecute in several cases involving pornography dealers.

Mr Moody, aged 51, a former chief superintendent in charge of the squad, is accused of accepting bribes from pornography dealers and has pleaded not guilty to six charges of conspiracy and corruption involving £24,000. Mr Moody of Elmere Road, Weybridge, Surrey, and Wallace Virgo, aged 59, a former commander, and four other former detectives from the squad, who deny similar charges, were appearing in court for the eighteenth day of their trial.

Mr Moody said that during one pornography investigation in 1966 he was offered a bribe of £30,000, which he refused.

"I reported that approach to the Director of Public Prosecutions," he said.

He denied allegations by former officers of the squad in which it was said that he would organise corruption and organise collections of money, and distribute it. "They are all malicious allegations," he said.

He said he first saw Mr John Mason, a Soho dealer in pornography, who has given evidence for the prosecution, when he was being interviewed at Scotland Yard by other officers after a bombing incident at one of Mr Mason's shops in Gerrard Street, Soho, in September, 1965.

At the time Mr Moody said, there was a strong suspicion that there was a protection racket being started in the West End and it was that aspect of the inquiry that concerned him. At that time he knew nothing of Mr Mason's involvement in the pornography business.

The trial continues today.

Health workers' pay rise

Pay rises in line with the £2.50 to £4 pay-policy limits have been agreed for some groups of health service workers.

Nurses and midwives will receive a 5 per cent increase on gross earnings. Lodging charges for nurses will rise by £33 a year up to the grade of staff nurse and by £57 a year for higher grades.

Agreement has also been

reached for increases for radiographers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, remedial gymnasts, dieticians and orthoptists.

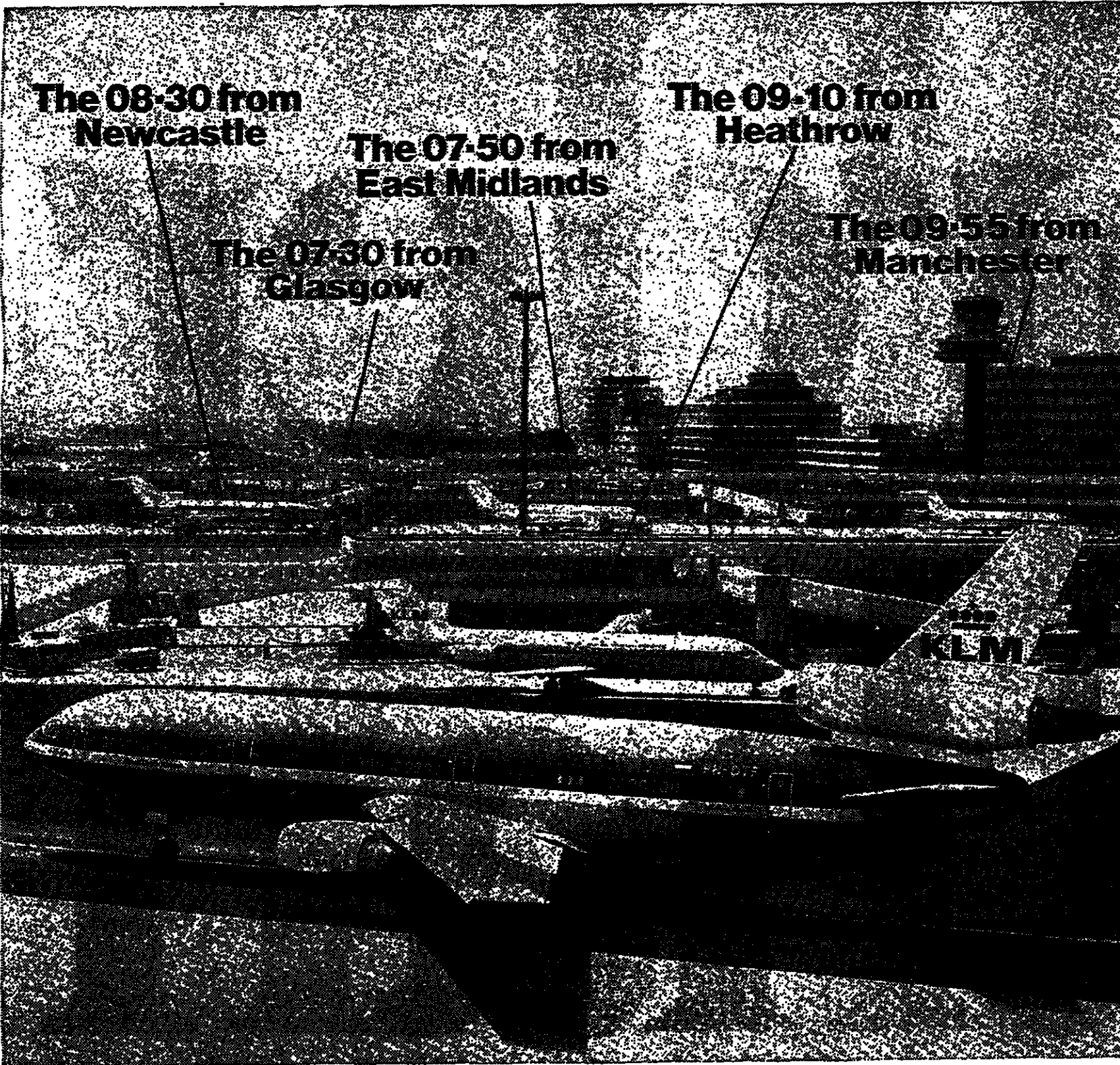
The increase is based on a weekly earnings supplement of £2.50 or 5 per cent of total earnings for all hours worked, whichever is more, to a maximum of £4. Hospital chaplains will get rises based on 5 per cent of gross earnings.

More jubilee crowns

Production of silver jubilee crowns will continue for several months and the Royal Mint expects to be able to meet demand in full, with nine million already distributed.

Correction

In a discussion of the poverty trap in an article on March 21, the net spending power of a four-child family on supplementary benefit should have read £44.67, as correctly indicated in the accompanying table, not £48.61.



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Peter Jay on
the 'old
Keynesians',
page 25

TUC leaders firm on call for tough price controls, including 12-month freeze

By Paul Routledge
and Ronald Emler

The TUC has taken a hard line on price controls in its response to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection's new policy. In a letter to Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State at the Department, the unions argue the case for stronger controls, including a 12-month freeze on investigated increases, that could be renewed.

As the TUC disclosed its attempt to secure tougher controls it also emerged that the Confederation of British Industry fears that two of its three main objections to the proposed new price controls will be largely ignored by Mr Hattersley when he presents his Bill in Parliament. This will be done "in a week or two", the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Taking the cue from the call by Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, for a general freeze on the cost of essential goods and services, the TUC general council, in its letter, welcomed the Government's resistance to pressure for the removal of all general forms of price control.

The TUC will oppose any suggestion that retailers should be exempt from gross margin controls and it is anxious that the Government appears to be abandoning totally the powers to apply general controls over prices through allowable costs.

The unions feel that it might, at some point, be desirable to apply the powers to control the effectiveness of the Price Commission's new award of measures. The actual content of the new price code should be a question of secondary, as opposed to primary, legislation.

"However, the new selective powers which the Government proposes to take should be written into the new legislation rather than the new code. It is important that any price frozen for a manufacturer would also be frozen at retail level", the TUC argues.

"The legislation should make clear that a price increase could be disallowed completely, or that a price reduction could be ordered. It should also make clear the length of time for which the ruling of the Price Commission would apply, either in terms of a price freeze, price reduction or increase."

The general council has told Mr Hattersley: "In your speech of February 22 you indicated that there would be a 12-month maximum period. We believe that orders should generally be renewable for a further period following examination by the Price Commission."

And the Government is warned: "The general council will monitor the actual operation of the policy and strongly resist any pressure to keep investigatory action by the Price Commission to a minimum. For example, the general council is concerned that the safeguards mentioned in the consultation document should not become a general loophole."

Speaking to a conference in London yesterday organized by the Institute of Purchasing and Supply, Mr Ronald Utiger, managing director of British Aluminium and leader of the CBI negotiating team, said that Mr Hattersley made clear that he "was not going to accept" industry's demand for a roll-back clause to protect companies during an investigation of pricing.

In the proposed code, the Price Commission would have the right to "freeze" prices for up to three months while it studied any company's prices, which could effectively mean a 12-month freeze on the initial price increase between the commission and the Secretary of State deciding whether to act on the commission's findings.

The effect of such a freeze on prices, Mr Utiger said, could be to "cripple" some companies, especially when raw material prices rose rapidly. The commission would have discretion to award interim rises while undertaking an investigation but the CBI thought this insufficient. It had demanded the right to raise prices initially then reduce them accordingly.

Mr Utiger felt the Government might bend sufficiently to give industry the right to interim rises during an investigation. The CBI has also pressed strongly for a series of safeguard "tripwires" which would preclude a company from an investigation if its profit margin fell below a pre-set level. Mr Utiger said yesterday that he was not optimistic of gaining this concession.

He said that if the Government could meet most of the CBI's objections to the code as proposed in the consultation document, industry "could come to an accommodation" on industrialists' membership of the commission.

It would seem that Mr Hattersley will not meet the CBI's primary demand that the new legislation should have only a year's maximum currency purely as a *quid pro quo* for phase three of a pay policy. Derek Harris writes: A possible price explosion after the end of present controls next July could be avoided by changes in the Government's proposed new controls, according to the Trade Union Research Unit (TURU) at Ruskin College, Oxford.

In a paper going to Mr Hattersley TURU points out that scrapping the rule imposing a three-month interval between price rises "poses an awkward possibility of price increases coming forward more rapidly after July".

TURU wants Mr Hattersley to lengthen the 28-day prior notice period for price rises to two or three months at the beginning of the new controls. But TURU also urges that the three-month interval between price rises should be kept, and preferably lengthened to four months.

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The company has much ground to make up on body production techniques compared with foreign rivals.

"Even though work may have to be put abroad at the moment because of the neglect of the industry, measures must immediately be put into effect to retain the technical force in Leyland Cars in order to avoid a future exodus of high technology work from Britain", TASS states.

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Mr Ronald Utiger: some companies could be crippled.

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Markets surge ahead in expectation of Government survival vote Shares and sterling gain confidence

By Our Financial Staff

Shares and sterling gained ground yesterday as hopes grew of a Government survival. On the London stock market trading in the institutional investors stayed on the sidelines.

But a light demand sent shares ahead and they were able to consolidate earlier gains when the news came through of Liberal support for the Government.

By the close the FT index was 8 points up at 427.4. This means that Monday's hefty losses had been all but recouped in the days and once again underlines the fundamental strength of the market.

Sterling climbed steadily to close at \$1.718, a gain of 0.18 cents on the day with the Bank of England intervening to slow the pace of the rise.

Greater optimism about sterling's prospects also led to an improvement in the forward markets. A stronger yen lowered the effective exchange rate of the pound against other currencies to 61.7 per cent, down 0.1 per cent from Tuesday.

On the gilt-edged market there was more buying which pointed to a heavy over-subscription this morning of the Government's offer of £800m of partly-paid Exchequer Stock.

The indications last night from stockbrokers, based largely on applications they had seen so far, were that the stock could well be subscribed three to five times over. Some even envisaged a final rush of applications this morning and the possibility of the stock being up to 10 times subscribed.

The great attraction of the stock, apart from the fact that it now offers a slight yield advantage over the nearest comparable stocks, is that, unusually for a Government stock, it is only partly-paid.

On the assumption that the stock goes to a premium in initial dealings, that premium will, despite the fact that the stock is only partly-paid, be roughly the same as had the stock been fully paid up.

Thus, a short-term investor putting up the £15 per cent payable on application—with the intention of selling the stock before the next call—is offered the opportunity of a highly-gained investment with potential for larger than usual percentage appreciation. That, of course, supposes that in a heavily oversubscribed situation the investor's application is in fact allotted a worthwhile amount of stock.

Financial Editor, page 25

Even if the Chancellor were to decide on a package of that kind—which is far from certain at the moment—he would still have to find a way of linking it with the next round of pay policy. Last year's option of spelling out a target for pay increases and making the tax cuts conditional is unlikely to be repeated because it alienated union opinion.

Instead, two options which have been considered are, to leave a second round of tax cuts a possibility if pay talks are successful in the summer, or threaten that tax concessions will be clawed back if pay negotiations do not lead to a deal.

The gathering was, however, a surprisingly uncontroversial affair. The old adage that two economists will provide you with three views seemed a singular misrepresentation.

It was left to a questioner from the floor to inject the only real element of controversy. What was the rationale behind a deal between Mr Healey and the TUC leaders?

The way he saw it the Chancellor was saying that if earnings were limited to, say, 12 per cent, then Mr Healey could cut taxes by, say, £1,000m; but if they held earnings to 5 per cent, the tax cuts might be much higher. Well, it is logic was extended to its conclusion, the trade unions should ask for negative growth in their earnings to a point where income tax would be eliminated.

Professor William Reddaway, of the University of Cambridge, who was chairing the meeting, suggested in his summing up that this notion was clearly ridiculous. Nevertheless, one or two of the panellists looked momentarily unsettled.

And how much did the economists think that the Chancellor would "give away" in his Budget?—the consensus seemed to be between £1,000m and £1,500m. Dr Neild thought that the Chancellor's best bet might have been to commit himself to large cuts in his 1978 Budget if earnings had been kept down to some predetermined amount over the intervening period. However, the political events of the last few days had focused attention on the Government's electoral vulnerability and undermined this approach. His scheme was thus now somewhat academic.

Such is economics.

Melvyn Westlake

Mr Mark Littman, part time deputy chairman and financial director of the British Steel Corporation, said that the BSC was established there was a provision for a board of 20 members and the chairman.

Sir Charles told an all party committee of MPs which is investigating the operations of the BSC, that with the support of Mr Varley it was intended to establish a policy board which would discuss and monitor the work of the corporation's executive.

He said there was ample room for manoeuvre and it was expected that there would be up to four executive members on the policy board, with scope for appointing about 10 other non-executive directors in addition to those already serving on the board.

The aim was to achieve as broad a board as possible, so this could include civil servants, under secretary level (there is civil servant representation on the board of the British National Oil Corporation), more trade unionists (there are two former trade union leaders serving as non-executive directors), and was possible that some of the trade union directors could come from within the ranks of divisional employee directors.

Sir Charles also disclosed that he would also like to see some representation direct from the shop floor and where it might prove convenient, a trade union representative would work at a full time official in one of the steel unions.

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Congress adamant on legislation to favour oil imports in US flag ships

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent
Officials of the United States Congress plan to press ahead with controversial legislation which will reserve a considerable proportion of American oil imports for transport in American flag ships.

Mr John Murphy, chairman of the committee on merchant marine and fisheries of the House of Representatives, stoutly defended the plans before an audience of shipowners and bankers in London yesterday. He claimed that enactment of the legislation would neither prove fatal to international trade nor violate agreements with America's traditional allies.

The proposed legislation had to be set against the declining capability of the United States flag merchant fleet and the question for Congress was how that decline could be arrested.

Under the proposal, 30 per cent of all petroleum and petroleum products imported into the United States would, by 1980,

have to be carried in American flag ships.

Mr Murphy said that he did not consider this percentage to be "predatory" although he fully appreciated the strength of the opposition to the plan abroad. The fact that a rift had developed between America and its maritime trading nations was a source of great concern, he said.

But, he told a two-day conference organized by the monthly marine journal, *Sea Trade*, it was clear that something had to be done to safeguard the American merchant marine's interests. A modest cargo equity device, he argued, was not only justifiable but absolutely necessary.

"I do concede, however, that if we are successful, there will be a cost increase to the consumer. How much is a question that has not been determined. The cost, however, is justified simply by the fact that we will increase the percentage of imports to be carried in United States flag bottoms."

This year total petroleum imports into the United States would account for 50 per cent of the nation's requirement and 96 per cent of this total was being carried in foreign flag ships. This situation could not continue.

Economic and national security considerations necessitated providing United States flag ships. The United States, he stressed, would not be introducing anything startlingly novel. Protectionist devices were employed by other nations in many forms.

Two previous attempts to enact this legislation had failed but already in the current session there had been two hearings and others were scheduled for early next month.

The success of the plan, he acknowledged, would be determined by the position of the Carter Administration but, he said: "I intend pushing forward in this matter as expeditiously as possible."

Bonn foresees energy crises if nuclear programme trimmed

From Peter Norman Bonn, March 23

West Germany will face power blackouts, minimum economic growth and mass unemployment around 1990 if government targets for an installed nuclear electricity generating capacity of 30,000 megawatts are not met by 1985, Dr Hans Friderichs, the Economics Minister, said today.

Presenting the first draft of the Government's revised energy programme, approved by the cabinet today, Dr Friderichs said nuclear energy would have to provide 13 per cent of the country's primary energy needs by 1985 against only 2 per cent in 1975. If the forecast primary energy consumption of just under 500 million tonnes of hard coal equivalent in that year were met.

Germany's planners are working on the assumption that primary energy demand will rise by 3.6 per cent per year to the middle of the next decade, and that there will be a 6.2 per cent annual increase in electricity demand in this period.

At the same time they are acutely aware of the dangers of an over-dependency on imported oil.

The revised programme, therefore, aims to cut back its share in meeting primary energy demand to 45 per cent (or 226 million tonnes of hard coal equivalent) by 1985 from 52 per cent (or 181 million tonnes) in 1975.

As there are seven nuclear power station projects and six conventional power stations

blocked as a result of court action, the targets published in today's energy programme are questionable.

Although the 30,000 megawatt nuclear target represents a considerable reduction on earlier targets of 45,000 to 50,000 megawatts by the middle of the next decade, Dr Friderichs was today openly discussing the economic consequences that would arise if the Government's programme were limited to the 20,000 megawatts at present in operation or under construction.

He told a press conference that limitation of the programme to 20,000 megawatts would mean regional blackouts before 1990.

In that year there could be 10 per cent shortfall in electricity supplies, real economic growth of only 1.5 per cent and an unemployment rate of 8 per cent, meaning 1.5 million more jobs than the present total of 12 million.

He said the Government was aiming to have a solution ready to the problem of the disposal of nuclear waste by the end of this year so work on some of the halted power stations could resume.

But Germany's nuclear power programme is probably more at risk because of a recent court decision that halted work on a nuclear power station at Wyhl in southern Germany.

The court called for construction of an additional safety shield around the reactor—a decision which, if sustained, could be applied to plants of the pressurized water variety already in operation. Today Dr Friderichs could only reaffirm that government experts were convinced that the court's fears are groundless.

EEC wants Belgian cut in Esso aid

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, March 23

The Belgian Government has been told by the European Economic Commission to cut by two-thirds investment aid worth 1,270m francs (£20.5m) granted to the Esso group for installing anti-pollution equipment while expanding its oil refinery in Antwerp.

The Commission maintains that no aid for expansion plans can be justified when refineries throughout the Community are operating at no more than 60 per cent of capacity. Antwerp's refinery capacity is being increased from 5.4 million to 13.5 million tonnes a year.

Even if Belgian estimates of the investment cost of installing the anti-pollution equipment were acceptable—the Commission argues that they are not—any state aid would still run counter to the "polluter pays" principle, in the Brussels view.

Work-in at Plessey called off

By R. W. Shakespeare

A work-in which began three weeks ago at a Plessey telecommunications factory on Merseyside was called off yesterday.

It began when the company announced extensive closure plans, and representatives of the 400 employees involved have made clear that they will continue the fight to save their jobs in other ways—by pressure on management and on the Government.

The decision to end the shop floor takeover of the plant at Kirby, was taken at a mass meeting. From the outset it has seemed unlikely that it could continue beyond the point at which stocks of raw materials in Plessey's plant were exhausted.

Plessey has blamed a fall-off in orders by the Post Office for its decision to reorganize its manufacturing operations. Its plans involve the loss of some 4,000 jobs in various parts of the country, including Merseyside and the North-east.

On Merseyside the company has four plants, and the cutbacks will mean 1,300 redundancies in an area where unemployment already stands at 10.6 per cent.

After yesterday's decision Mrs Lily Allen, chairman of the action committee at the Kirby factory, said that as far as jobs were concerned the situation remained unchanged. Management had made it clear that unless there was a big increase in orders the factory would have to be closed.

Mrs Allen, who has worked at the Kirby factory since it opened 11 years ago, says that many of the workers there are women and that the majority of them would be unable to find alternative employment.

Immediately after Plessey announced its cutback plans the three major white collar unions in the company excluded senior management from all four of the Merseyside plants.

The action by the white collar unions was called off last week.

Force majeure at Queensland uranium mines

Queensland Mines has declared force majeure on the supply of uranium this year to a Japanese power company, and said it may be forced to take the same action on a contract with another Japanese company.

Queensland said it had tried to borrow the amount required—believed to be about 100 tons of uranium oxide—from government stockpiles but regarded the Government's conditions as impracticable.

The company has a uranium deposit of great potential at Nabarlek, but is unable to develop it pending the nationwide suspension of uranium mining (with the exception of Mary Kathleen Uranium) pending publication of the long overdue Fox Commission's second report and a government decision on the development of the country's huge uranium reserves.

'Lombard' author to sue over dismissal

Mr C. H. Gordon Tether, the former financial columnist of the *Financial Times*, wrote for many years under the name Lombard, is taking his former employers to the Industrial Tribunal, seeking reinstatement on grounds of alleged unfair dismissal.

His former employers have entered a response to contest the case, which is set down for hearing at the London (Central) Industrial Tribunal from May 2 to 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Making the most of our exports to Japan

From Mr Geoffrey Nichols

Sir, In his important survey "Summit agenda for economic security" (March 17), Peter Jay refers to Japanese willingness to make large purchases of United States military aircraft and nuclear installations to improve the trade balance, adding that they claim "there is a limit to the amount of Scotch whisky and Oxford Street goods which they can buy from less technologically advanced countries like Britain".

This side-swipe perpetuates two myths which British industry must challenge: that our exports to Japan consist mainly of top quality consumer goods; we have nothing technologically interesting to the Japanese in military hardware, aviation or other fields; both are plain nonsense.

Apart from consumer goods, Britain has been pushing—in the recent economic recession with varying degrees of success—such products as aerospace (for example flight simulators), marine and oceanic equipment, medical and hospital equipment (for example the brain scanner), anti-pollution and meteorological equipment, lasers, scientific

instruments, agricultural equipment and a plethora of industrial processes and machinery. We want to sell more and, given Japanese willingness to buy and to take interdependence down into the industrial sector, we shall do so.

As to military hardware and aviation, British firms have kept technology products in offer, for example, what about the BAC 111 variant, the Harrier (bought by America), Nimrod and the Rolls-Royce Olympus Tyne propulsion unit used in several variants—not to mention the hundreds of Rolls Royce aero engines fitted to the most modern aeroplanes in Japanese service.

Our people are pressing their claims hard against United States predominance in the Japanese market and they deserve a fair crack of the whip.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY NICHOLS,
Chairman of Japan Trade Advisory Group of British Overseas Trade Board, Rotaprint Limited, Rotaprint House, Honeypot Lane, London, NW9 9RE.
March 18.

A disputed rule at the Nationwide

From Mr C. C. Stevens

Sir, I used to hold shares in one of the oldest building societies. It was small, with only a few million pounds in its care, but it always paid a beautiful dividend, half of 1 per cent above the big and better societies. Its directors recommended to their shareholders amalgamation with one of the bigger and better societies under which the extra return would disappear.

There could have been no truth in the rumour that they had been promised permanent seats on the regional board of the bidder at much higher fees but those shareholders who asked for information on the subject were thrown out, without any answer, under a rule similar to No 29 of the Nationwide society, before the date of the general meeting where, of course, they obtained their way.

I hope Nationwide members will realize, even if only from their directors spending £45,000 in resistance, that this is no minor matter. The rule is capable of concealing, and may even be said to encourage, skulduggery of every kind. It should be amended, not merely to provide for information, but to make expulsion a matter for decision at a general meeting.

Yours truly,
C. C. STEVENS,
Friars Herongate, Brentwood, Essex, C13 3PN.
March 11.

N Sea oil's breathing space

From Mr Robert Davies

Sir, Who else shares my belief that North Sea oil is the worst thing that could have happened to this country? If we had the self-discipline we might have used it as a breathing space to modernize our industries. As it is we'll just fritter it away. Once the oil has run out in 20 years' time our industries will simply be that more obsolete. And then we really will be in a mess.

Yours truly,
ROBERT DAVIES,
7 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2, March 17.

Changing patterns of shopping in the suburban high street

From Mr D. M. L. Alexander

Sir, Rosemary Brown in her article on March 21 describing the plight of the small shopkeeper presents a distorted viewpoint. Certainly some trades have retreated under the pressure of the big battalions and traders in some shopping parades may be losing the battle in old and depressed residential areas, or where a new ribbon of shops is being built. Yet the majority, particularly those in premises built since 1930, are surviving well despite the harassment of the multiples and the imposts of government.

Your contributor overlooks the changing pattern of suburban shopping centres. The fish and chip shop declines but the take-away (Chinese, chicken or what-you-will) is in ascendance. New trades step in when the butcher, the grocer and the pie-and-shop close.

There is the DIY shop, the travel agent, the hairdresser, the flower and garden shop, kitchenware and giftware, motor accessories and bou-

ques, optician and building society; many others wait in the wings.

Generally, the small shopkeeper has the benefit of a flat above the shop which he or his staff may occupy. He may not like the high rents, but the free market of his fellows sets their level and, if demand were falling, rents would follow. In fact, the past couple of years apart, rents have tended to increase in line with inflation; remember, every price rise is also a rise in retailer's gross profit.

The independent shopkeeper, like the farmer, has always struggled and stumbled and worked hard and long. Usually he has made himself a living according to his abilities and while he may adopt a new guise, he is still to be found in his accustomed place. Long may he remain!

Yours faithfully,
D. M. L. ALEXANDER,
35 Lancaster Avenue, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Hertfordshire.
March 21.

Optimum returns from electricity

From Mr J. H. Birch

Sir, Mr Brookes (March 17) is right in pointing out the time record of the electricity industry in converting low-grade fuels into high-grade energy. Indeed, the British electricity supply is the most developed and efficient anywhere.

At an early stage electricity was being produced in the United Kingdom so competitively that it could be used for space heating against the fossil fuels. Despite Mr Brookes' costings on the price of electricity for water heating, I am sure he would not argue against the conclusion that electricity is no longer competitive with other methods of space heating.

There are now many of us in the energy industry who argue that the way in which electricity can be restored to gain a position on a secure basis in the space heating field is for the industry to produce heat rather than through the combined heating power process.

The combined heating power cycle uses the same low-grade fuels as does pure electrical production, but at a very much higher overall efficiency. The difference is that before the low-grade potential energy is converted into the highest

grade electrical energy, it is tapped off and used at a lower stage in the form of energy, which is what must be done anyway with electrical energy used for heating.

The difficulties of applying this concept are considerable and well known, the key to which is the utilization of the heat produced by district heating schemes. Already in the interests of energy conservation, they have been accepted in many European countries and have been endorsed by the EEC Committee on the Rational Use of Energy.

The immense resources—and resourcefulness—of the British electricity industry should surely be deployed to take up this challenging opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. BIRCH,
Managing Director,
Clorius Meters Limited, Redwood House, Bristol Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 2BB.
March 21.

Electricity industry is not "a reprehensible waste of fuel".

In the next day's issue of *The Times* your Science Editor, Mr Pearce Wright, contributed a short article entitled "Power Station Waste Heat for Homes Envisaged", which presents a useful resume of the topic. In the light of Mr Brookes' letter I find the following sentence, taken from the article, most illuminating: "The technical and economic arguments for such a project estimated to cost more than £300m are contained in *District Heating Combined with Electricity Generation in the UK*".

What horrifies me is the mention of £300m of taxpayers' money to be spent on a problem which according to Mr Brookes, does not exist. In all our interests, might I suggest that, via the courtesy of *Business News* you put Mr Brookes in contact with Mr Cunningham, of the Department of Energy, whose advisers are evidently pursuing a "will o' the wisp".

Yours faithfully,
HERBERT R. BEDWELL,
White Nancy, The Hith, Rodborough Common, Stroud, Gloucestershire.
March 19.

Investment for progress

Points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. G. S. Baker:

- * In the period 1975-1977 over £2 million will have been spent by the group on new and replacement premises, plant and development. This large investment gives cause to believe that the group will progress as it has in recent years.
- * The new management and operational structure adds to this confidence.
- * There are some signs of an increased demand for open die forgings and rolled rings.
- * As in previous cycles demand for all products should increase and by the end of 1977 we would expect to be working nearer full capacity.

GROUP RESULTS		1976	1975
		£000	£000
Turnover		10,492	8,311
Trading profit		828	1,049
Exceptional item	Note (1)	(150)	—
Interest paid		(55)	(17)
Profit before taxation		625	1,032
Distributable earnings		303	482
Dividends		212	175
		pence	pence
Earnings per share		2.9	6.6
Dividends per share	Note (2)	2.1	1.9
Net assets per share		42.9	38.3

NOTES
(1) The start-up, refurbishing costs and excess production costs of initial stocks at La Brite Belge to bring that company to a viable production level.
(2) 1975 adjusted for one-for-one rights issue in September 1975 and calculated on the share capital at 3rd January 1976.



Woodhouse & Rixson (Holdings) Ltd.

Bessmer Road, Sheffield S9 3XS.

A copy of the Annual Report is available on request from the Company Secretary.

Booker McConnell

"The company has successfully withstood the disposal of the Guyana businesses.

The financial position is stronger than at the end of 1975.

1977 has begun well and we should earn a substantial increase in profit this year. We are looking for further growth".

Sir George Bishop
Chairman

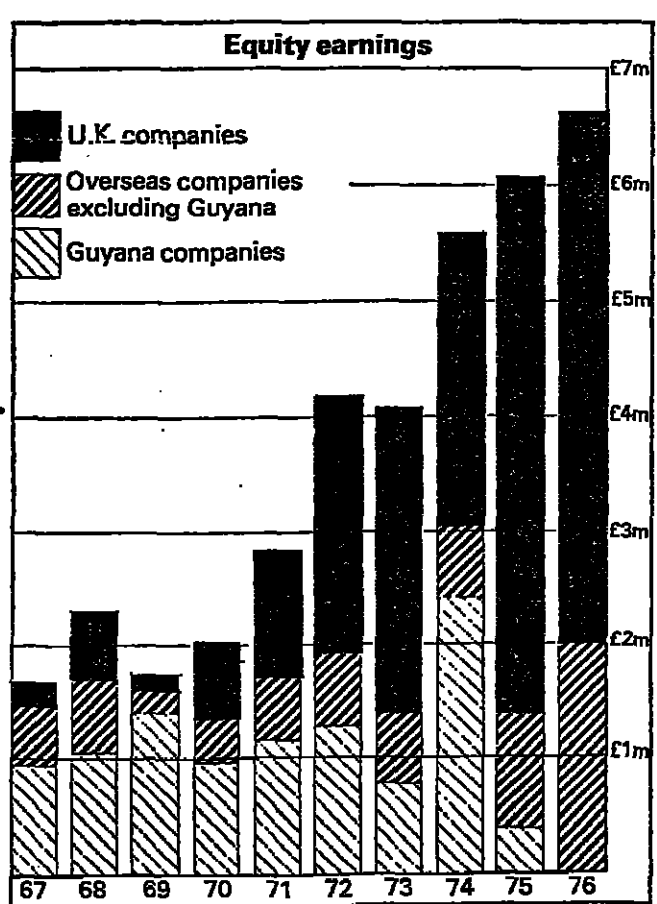
Attributable after-tax profits increased from £6.07m to £6.64m and earnings per share from 22p to 24p.

Turnover exceeded £350m.

1976 profits were earned without any contribution from the Guyana companies which, only two years previously, had provided 43% of profit.

UK food distribution and fluid engineering were the major profit earners.

Preliminary results for the year 1976		Excluding Guyana companies	Including Guyana companies
		1976	1975
		£000	£000
Profit before tax		14,937	13,535
Equity earnings		6,638	5,719
from UK companies		4,671	4,895
from Guyana companies		—	355
from other overseas companies		1,967	1,024
Earnings per share		24.00p	20.71p
Dividends per share		6.336p	5.76p



FOOD DISTRIBUTION . ENGINEERING . OVERSEAS TRADING . AGRICULTURE . RUM AND LIQUEURS . SHIPPING . AUTHORS

The report and accounts will be published on 12 April.

Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, Booker McConnell Limited, Bucklersbury House, London EC4N 8EJ.

مكتبة الشارقة

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Getting back to business

After a couple of months on navigation rations—and with the Liberal vote safely in the Government's pocket for the time being—the market looks set to devour in a single gulp his morning's tasty morsel, which he had been saving for the day when the market was expected to be in a state of confusion. The £120m payable on application is, of course, vastly more—24 times in fact—than was called in the recent heavily over-subscribed £51 and £12 issues. But the market was happily taking last night of applications to the tune of £300m, £400m, £500m, even £1,000m, and a premium on Friday of up to a point.

An unqualified success for the authorities, one might say. But is it? In the sense that the authorities will have succeeded in securing in advance a substantial funding commitment for a period about which they remain highly nervous, a fully subscribed issue must be regarded as highly successful, though to the extent that the authorities worst fears for the second quarter prove unfounded they will have committed themselves to funding on a higher than necessary coupon. However, in the sense that the issue was also designed to take the steam out of the market ahead of a potentially more difficult period, a heavy over-subscription has to be counted as anything but a success. For it is not quite good enough to argue that the stock will dampen market enthusiasm by taking £120m out of circulation. True, the indications appear to be that the over-subscription has been dueled by the new tax restrictions, but the assumption must be that the partly-paid mechanism is going to draw back into the market other speculative funds that had recently been sent out of the market and would otherwise not have returned.

In this sense, if the second quarter background does prove as troublesome as the authorities fear, they will have served themselves up with an even more disorderly market at a time when they might well want to cast a new fly to hook a steady flow of funds over the summer holiday season.

General Accident Balance sheet strength

At 190p, 4p better yesterday after final figures, General Accident's shares are 11p per cent up since the group published encouraging, North American figures in mid-February.

GA's latest figures bear out all the promising indications evident then: there is a good chance of an underwriting profit in the United Kingdom this year; the plan is to make a little more cloudy but United States underwriting losses should with luck be halved; and the balance sheet bolstered, of course by last year's £45m rights issue, looks one of the best in the business, the solvency margin now standing at almost 57 per cent.

Last year's outcome was very much in line with what everyone expected: the general account underwriting loss was £17.1m, a 32 per cent improvement which masked losses of £12.3m in the United States and £4m in the United Kingdom, two territories which together account for 73 per cent of premium income.

This improvement in underwriting coupled with a rising investment income—42 per cent a £60m last year with only three months of rights issue to help—could leave 1977 earnings at around 24p a share—given that some past rights dilution has to be accepted. But for the moment GA's yield of 8.87 per cent on a dividend overed three times and p/e



Sir George Bishop, chairman of Booker McConnell: after the acquisitions.

ratio of 2.6 is in line, though the sector might be expected to improve once CUE Estates House venture has been digested by the market.

Final: 1976 (1975)

Capitalization £311m

*Premiums £620.3m (£471.7m)

*Pre-tax profits £42.6m (£16.8m)

Earnings per share 22p (9.5p)

Dividend gross 11.15p (8.93p)

*Non-life

Rockware

Capacity working

The market got Rockware wrong. The interim stage having expected the boom caused by the hot summer to have shown through in the first half figures, the timescale was too advanced. So, when the figures—a 27 per cent rise to £1.85m—failed to match expectations the share price took a fall.

However, many analysts failed to take the point so yesterday's 45p per cent pre-tax profit increase to £6.27m for the full year was in turn well ahead of most estimates.

The shares duly gained 1p yesterday to 95p, matching their high for the year, where the p/e ratio is 51, not helped though by a 5.6 per cent yield.

A rights issue could overcome this of course, and would provide some useful cash for the £10m capital spending programme. True, borrowings were substantially down by the end of the year—helped by the £5.6m net proceeds from the Greenford site sale—though they will rise this year.

For full year the glass operating profits were nearly a quarter ahead at £7m, with capacity working achieved in the second half. The plastics side now looks radically different following the completion of the capital expenditure programme and operating profits rose from £46,000 to £302,000.

Final: 1976 (1975)

Capitalization £16.3m

Sales £72.6m (£56.5m)

Pre-tax profits £6.27m (£4.31m)

Earnings per share 17.21p (12.83p)

Dividend gross 5.36p (4.87p)

Booker McConnell

A record in sight

Booker McConnell has had a point to make since it became obvious, just over a year ago, that the group and its Guyana interests were about to part company. The point was that Booker could do very well without: and the results for 1976 have underlined it.

True, pre-tax profits of just under £15m fall short of the

£16.1m which the group, including its Guyana interests, made in 1975: but they show an improvement on the 1975 total excluding Guyana despite the fact that the general engineering division incurred a big loss on a sugar factory contract in the Sudan. And at the attributable level, thanks to a lower tax charge which in part reflects exclusion of the Guyana interests, profits are well ahead.

Moreover, the forecast is distinctly bullish: the chairman is talking of a "substantial" increase in profits this year, which implies profits well ahead of anything the group has ever made before, at perhaps £19m.

It's easy enough to see where the improvement will come from. In the general engineering division, the group has now provided for all anticipated losses the turnover should be worth some £1m; and there should be another £2m added to come from Kinloch, after financing costs assuming that Booker pushes ahead with the sale of Kinloch's office building, which is worth some £4m.

Central Wagon can't be expected to do more than wash its face this year—if that.

But there should be organic growth to come from the other divisions, and particularly the fast-growing fluid engineering side. If the implication here is that profits growth will continue, the group's shares, at 148p for a yield of 6.6 per cent, are not unduly attractive for a conglomerate whose acquisition policy has yet to be adequately defined. The cash there is the acquisition of Kinloch and Central Wagon has not stretched the balance sheet by much) but the stock market needs to be convinced that the group knows where to use it.

Capitalization £44m

Sales £356m (£304m)

Pre-tax profits £14.94m (£13.54m)

Earnings per share 23.09p (20.11p)

Dividend gross 9.75p (8.86p)

*Excluding Guyana companies

BICC

Eliminating losses

More than half of BICC's 23 per cent improvement in operating profits came from the construction company, Balfour Beatty, which is no longer suffering from losses on the Dartford Tunnel Contract, while a reduction in finance charges from the £20m rights issue in March geared up the pre-tax improvement to 35 per cent at £43.5m.

Overseas despite contributing 68 per cent of the total, the trend was flat. A good performance in Australia, which is continuing to be balanced by poor results from Canada, and a downturn in South Africa in the second half.

The cable division increased profits 59 per cent last year despite a 74 per cent volume decline and 80 per cent capacity working. Margins would improve dramatically with increased production, but that will not come from telecommunications or power in the United Kingdom.

Still, there are no apparent working capital pressures and the group looks increasingly lean and healthy. Nevertheless, the possible rise of a fifth or so in this year's profits will be very hard won, and 1978 is more likely to prove BICC's year. Meanwhile the yield of 9.4 per cent at 108p is little compensation for possible CCA horrors.

Final: 1976 (1975)

Capitalization £157.2m

Sales £898.4m (£758.1m)

Pre-tax profits £43.5m (£22.3m)

Earnings per share 31.7p (16.5p)

Dividend gross 10.17p (10.17p)



Factories make their presence felt in Scotland's countryside, like the one at Glasgow, where more than a dozen organizations are promoting various towns and regions as centres for industry and business.

Too many cooks spoiling the Scottish broth?

According to the people who sell Scotland overseas as a base for new industry, the country is being over-promoted. From the Scottish Development Department downwards more than a dozen organizations are promoting various towns and regions as excellent centres for a new factory or business.

So many approaches are now being made to potential clients in Europe and America that the total effort could become counter-productive.

As one promoter put it, a queue of well-groomed Scottish executives are extending the welcome mat while industrialists on the receiving end of this beguiling rush are bemused.

"How can someone in Houston or Chicago be expected to distinguish between areas of Scotland a few miles apart and offering basically the same commodities—space, labour and government grants—to help set them up?" he asked. "I wish they kept turning up to knock on the same office doors."

An attempt to rationalize the efforts of so many organizations keen to promote their own particular corner of Scotland is being made by the Scottish Development Agency. Over the next two years, it will take over much of the industrial promotion work of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) and will aim to coordinate the efforts of various bodies to achieve the most cost-effective result.

"It could be difficult to persuade people to make a more overall view of Scottish promotion. Each area wants to be seen to be active because there is a lot of political sensitivity about winning new industry regardless of whether the attempts have been really successful."

"No one has power to prevent these small promotions but we must hope that we can persuade people that it is not worthwhile doing it when the SDA and the Scottish Council are already steering inquiries from overseas in the most appropriate directions", an SDA official said.

Each Scottish area promotes its own best-selling point. Each would argue that it is best suited to do this and is best able to inject genuine enthusiasm into its persuasion.

The Borders, for example, put emphasis on a fine working environment, Strathclyde on a plentiful supply of skilled labour, and the Highlands on water supplies and deep water facilities.

"They are all at it; the regions, districts, new towns, the oil promoters and the development agencies—all vying on one another's toes and

all being funded by the Government to do the same thing", another official said.

The Scottish Council pioneered industrial promotion north of the border and is credited with having attracted to Scotland about 800 companies, including about 100 from America. This success led to the start of more individual efforts which eventually were coordinated through the Scottish consultative committee. It is this role which the SDA will eventually take over.

Unfortunately some areas fared better than others and as traditional industry contracted and new jobs became more essential, independent promoters flourished and the queue of Scottish executives outside the doors of influential people grew ever longer.

As a result the competition is now extremely keen within Scotland. For example, the Scottish Council through "publicity trawling" and direct mail approaches to certain categories of overseas industry, now has a list of more than 100 American companies expressing an interest in Scotland.

"Frankly, we keep the names of clients a close secret even though many people would like to know. After all, it is not about Scotland, what the country has to offer and what the client is seeking, we discover which local authority or areas might suit him best and then let him make up his own mind after meeting the people concerned. But it is hard always to appear the unbiased broker", a council spokesman said.

Mr Ian Gray, industrial development officer for Monklands District Council on the outskirts of Glasgow, does not accept that such a general approach is the best way of helping a place like Monklands, a town abandoned by the coal and steel industries and left with an unemployment rate of almost 13 per cent.

This has to be a hard sell operation and companies looking at Monklands greatly appreciate having someone on the ground to make immediate decisions.

"Frankly, I doubt that the way to create jobs is to go swanning around America in the hope that their companies will come here."

You can expand industry within your area by trying to persuade existing companies to diversify with the help of the SDA, or concentrating on countries which are large exporters to Britain. Providing them with facilities here could become a very lucrative business in future", he said.

Ronald Faux

One more heave by men of goodwill

"Old Keynesians" are the nicest sort of people. They are moderate, without being vacuous. They recoil from despair, without indulging in false optimism. They are sceptical of new theories, but always willing to argue the matter out. They commonly write beautifully without any diminution of scholarly rigour.

They doubt whether there is anything new under the sun. They suspect that if things are as they are they must have been a reason for it. They are uneasy that one thing may lead to another. They are fond of knowing lots of little things and insist on being told those things which claim to know any one big thing.

Their tone and manner is so hypnotically reasonable that one longs to agree with them. As the contemporary sage Christopher Booker has remarked in a different context, "they have seen the past; and it works"—or rather it would have worked but for this and that.

Michael Stewart—the economist and part-time gourmet, not the former Foreign Secretary—is a paragon among "old Keynesians". His new history of economic policy from 1964, published today, is a golden contribution to economics as literature. It will also serve for a long time as an indispensable introduction to the history of the period, easily intelligible to the newest student and at the same time illuminating to the protagonists and professional interpreters of those years.

Samuel Brittan's classic *Steering the Economy* had moved a long way from his *Treasury under the Tories 1951-64* towards a monetarist interpretation, and it finishes with the 1969 Budget.

The *Labour Government's Economic Record 1964-70*, edited by Wilfrid Beckerman, proved to be a disappointingly fragmented set of uncoordinated interpretations of different aspects of policy, though all broadly within the "old Keynesian" canon and partly redeemed by the genuinely original material in Michael Stewart's contribution on the distribution of income.

C. D. Cohen's *British Economic Policy 1960-69* was a workmanlike analysis of the reasons for the failures of fiscal and monetary management of the economy in the 1960s, concluding that the failure to get the economy back into internal and external balance could really be excused by a government which had to rule by consent.

So, if the "old Keynesian" economic consensus which informed this era was not a fault, what was? Michael Stewart's answer essentially is our old friends Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, as embodied in the schizophrenic antics of successive governments—and, even more disastrously, oppositions.

Crudely summarized, his thesis is that there are certain things, most conspicuously, a permanent incomes policy which need beyond reasonable dispute to be steadily and consistently applied and that this requirement has been disregarded because of the structure of Westminster politics.

This structure causes Mr Hyde—dogmatic, ideological, opportunistic, fractious, impractical and unrealistic to infect all oppositions after their first brief period of office and all governments during the first year or two that it takes them to work off the nonsense of opposition.

Dr Jekyll only gets a go in the middle and later years of a government; and even then he is harried by Mr Hyde across the floor and he becomes palsied as the next election heaves over the horizon.

Michael Stewart is sceptical

the possibility that it might be right, it is the view of the central British economic establishment, both in the academic and in the policy-making domains. If it is wrong, then, as may in itself be part of the explanation of the apparent failure of British economic policy and even of the British economy since the war.

They have, of course, been much belaboured by the monetarists and by the new Keynesians of the new Cambridge school. The former argue that the causes of unemployment are structural and that therefore the only effects of treating it as if it were caused by deficient demand is to aggravate inflation.

The latter argue that the causes of inflation are under production engendered by a structural lack of international competitiveness. On British manufacturing industry which can only be compensated for—and eventually cured—under a regime of general import controls.

But, if there is not and could not be such an incomes policy, then we must invent Michael Stewart's assessment that "if the system is to remain democratic, drastic change must be ruled out."

Instead we must conclude that if drastic change is ruled out, the system cannot remain democratic. For it will be unable to deliver even a minimally acceptable level of inflation, employment and living standards for reasons by now familiar to readers of this column.

His reasons for ruling out drastic change are not that it would necessarily be mistaken. He acknowledges that it might be right. But, he says, the experience of the last few years demonstrates a predictable incapacity of the political system as it has it to tolerate any substantial departure from the norms of the mixed economy as defined by that narrow area of overlap between the opinions of Mr Roy Jenkins and those of Mr Edward Heath.

These at least are the norms which prevail during those brief, precious and discontinuous moments when Dr Jekyll is in the saddle. Yet, it is hard to reconcile this general view with Mr Stewart's harsh judgments on the mismanagement of the economy during the period between Mr Heath's definitive U-turn away from his Selsdon period and his final repudiation by the electors in 1974, to say nothing of his adverse reflections on Mr Maudling's tenure and Mr Roy Jenkins's last budget.

Nowhere does Mr Stewart directly confront the opposite view, namely that it has been precisely those things about which Mr Heath, Mr Jenkins and Mr Healey have been agreed which define the abiding failure of post-war economic management, namely that the mixed economy is a workable compromise between alternative views of the role of capital and labour as entrepreneurs and of the role of government and markets as general economic regulators.

Those who are unconventional enough to find more to agree with in Mr Powell's and Mr Biffen's emphasis on the advantages to democracy and to efficiency of market allocation of resources and with Mr Benn's perception of the potential of workers cooperatives where conventional capital-labour relations no longer work than they find to agree with in anything said by the Heath-Jenkins centre will not believe that any number of more heaves by men of even the greatest goodwill can ever be more than an expense of spirit in a waste of shame. I hope Mr Stewart is right, but think and fear that he is wrong.

**The Jekyll and Hyde Years: Politics and Economic Policy since 1964*, by Michael Stewart, Dent (£8.95).

"We're with Nationwide. We've had another record year."



Nationwide—a further stride

1976 was another record year for Nationwide Building Society.

● A record 62,977 mortgage loans were advanced during 1976, with a total value of £551.8m (+35.9% on 1975).

Over half of these loans were to first time buyers and about a quarter to people buying property over 50 years old.

● Record investment receipts of £968m. Net receipts after deducting withdrawals were £347m.

● Total assets increased by a record £373m to £2,278m (+19.6%).

● A strong financial position was maintained throughout the year. At the year end reserves had risen to £76.5m.

● Over 1½ million people now keep their savings safe with Nationwide. Please call in at any of our 280 branches for your free copy of our 1976 Report and details of our services for investors and borrowers.



The Building Society of a lifetime

Head Office: New Oxford House, High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW. Funds exceed £2,200 million. Authorised for investment by trustees. Member of the Building Societies Association.

Business Diary: Bickering at Bickenhill • Ring master?

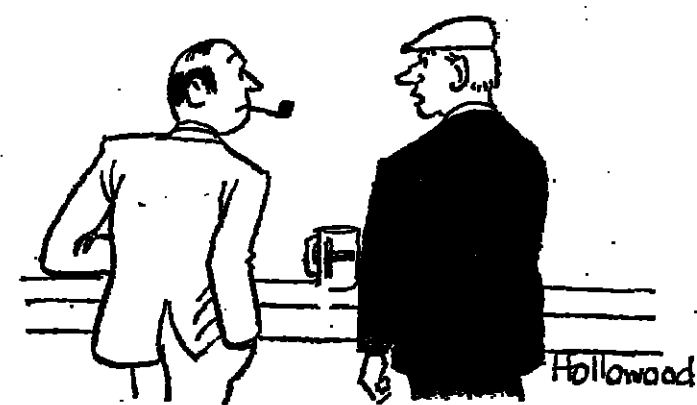
They do rather appear to be taking an exhibition of themselves down Bickenhill way, one of the National Exhibition Centre.

The general manager, Gordon Race, is quitting his £15,750 a year job only eight months after arriving from Warley and. His predecessor, Richard Birmingham, who was the centre's first general manager, signed after only a year in a job.

That was in May, 1975: until then arrived in July last year, 30 chairman Sir Robert Booth, who had been chief executive. There have been several days' talks over the terms of Race's departure with the result that, though warm tributes are being paid in either direction, the fact has emerged. What seems to have happened, however, is that in a neat between Race and Sir Robert, over who the financial controller should report to, the ard backed Sir Robert. Sir Robert is director of the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, which with Birmingham Corporation owns a somewhat loosely named "national" exhibition centre. The centre has heavy interest in the Birmingham area and plans to increase space charges by more than three times next year, the second time in two years. There are fears, however, that Sir Robert, the new prices will drive business to other exhibition centres.

answering a call

Michael Hepker could become a Jimmy Young of the tax world. He is launching a one-in service, not for house-



"No, what I'm in favour of is an orderly wage explosion."

bound mums but for accountants harassed by proliferating tax changes and statements from their professional associations.

The idea is that small firms of two or three partners who do not have the answer to a client's question dial Hepker's Practitioners' Advice and Information Service. Most questions, Hepker says, could be answered then and there.

Hepker was willing to be put to the test and had forewarned reporters from accountancy journals invited to yesterday's reception in London to bring along a few leeches.

"Any questions?" he asked—only to be answered by glazed eyes and shuffling feet. The awkward silence was broken only when John Treman, director of the Society of Company and Commercial Accountants, chimed in with two queries sent in by his members.

One was on apportionment

months ago, although it will be presented as very generous. Healey will regard inflationary reductions in taxation as real.

Oil change

For eight years Venezuelan-born Francisco (Frank) Parra has run one of the world's leading oil consultancies, Parra, Ramos & Parra, from Britain. But now his career has turned full circle and he is leaving his Birmingham-based consultancy to become the London representative for Venezuela's new state oil company, Petroven.

Frank Parra began work in the Venezuelan oil industry in 1951 when it was dominated by the multinational oil companies, but he gained an international reputation during a two-year term as secretary general of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in the late 1960s.

With his considerable experience of the oil industry outside Venezuela he will be the eyes and ears of the new state corporation in London which is still the clearing house for much of the oil industry's Middle Eastern and European operations.

His two partners in the consultancy have already joined Petroven, so his departure was not unexpected. Brother Alirio has become a full time director and Manuel Ramos is now a part-time director.

Tintinnabulation

Emblazoned on the front cover of *Shopping Centres*, a new textbook for local authorities,

developers and consultants will be concerned in the future with creating new shopping centres either in the United Kingdom or abroad. It is an ironic picture of Rowland Emery's *Aqua Horologica* Tintinnabulator.

For the uninitiated, the Tintinnabulator is the sculptural centerpiece of Capital and Countryside Property Company's Victoria Centre shopping scheme in Nottingham. And, for those who miss the irony, CCPC, whose development director Ian Northern is joint author of the new book, is now attempting to sell all or part of the £20m centre to help reduce the group's financial problems.

Chapter 12 of the book, entitled "An approach for the successful planning of shopping centres", is no doubt required reading at CCPC.

Written jointly with Michael Haskell and published under the imprint of the Centre for Advanced Land Use Studies, *Shopping Centres* costs £5.50 and is the first of a series of guides on property development.

The authors hope that the information in the book, "largely accumulated in the painful school of practical experience", will help people to avoid "some of the pitfalls with which many developers have had to contend in the past."

Lord Tanlaw was until 1971 a managing director of Inchcape & Co, and not chairman, as stated in *Business Diary* yesterday.

Wintrust Securities Limited

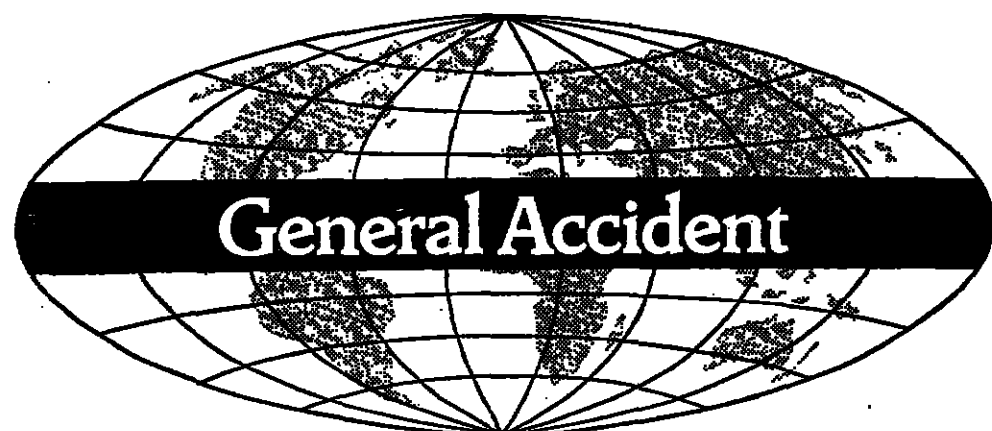
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Results for 1976

The audited accounts for the year to 31st December 1976 will be published on 2nd May 1977, but preliminary and unaudited figures for 1976, with actual figures for 1975, are as follows —

	1976 £M	1975 £M
Premium Income		
Short Term Business		
General	600.3	455.9
Marine and Aviation	20.0	15.8
	<u>620.3</u>	<u>471.7</u>
Long Term Business		
Life, Annuity, Capital Redemption and Long Term Personal Accident	73.4	64.2
Profit and Loss Account		
Investment Income	60.0	42.3
Underwriting Results		
General	(17.1)	(25.2)
Marine and Aviation	(0.5)	(0.5)
Shareholders' Long Term Profits	1.9	1.8
	<u>44.3</u>	<u>18.4</u>
Interest on Loans	1.7	1.6
Profit before Taxation	<u>42.6</u>	<u>16.8</u>
Taxation—UK and Overseas	11.8	3.6
Profit after Taxation	<u>30.8</u>	<u>13.2</u>
Exchange adjustment	(0.9)	(0.8)
	<u>29.9</u>	<u>12.4</u>
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	(0.6)	(0.4)
Profit for the year available to Ordinary Shareholders	<u>29.3</u>	<u>12.0</u>
Earned per share	<u>22.0p</u>	<u>9.5p</u>
Dividend per share	<u>7.25p</u>	<u>5.81p</u>

Note

In arriving at the profit for the year after taxation, overseas revenue has been included at the rates of exchange ruling on 31st December 1976, USA business being converted at \$1.70 to the £ (1975—\$2.02).

The exchange charge of £0.9 million (1975 £0.8m) represents the decrease in that profit arising from the application of average rates of exchange, which are those used for purposes of establishing UK taxable profits.

Analysis by Territory of General Business Premium Income and Underwriting Result

	1976 Premium Income	1976 Underwriting Result	1975 Premium Income	1975 Underwriting Result
U.K.	201.8	(4.0)	174.3	(10.7)
U.S.A.	239.4	(12.3)	169.1	(11.6)
E.E.C.	42.2	(2.0)	32.5	(2.7)
Canada	55.9	(0.1)	32.5	(1.6)
Australia	21.6	1.7	19.3	0.4
Other, including reinsurance	39.4	(0.4)	28.2	1.0
	<u>600.3</u>	<u>(17.1)</u>	<u>455.9</u>	<u>(25.2)</u>

Final Dividend for the year ended 31st December 1976

The Directors have decided to recommend to the Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 25th May, 1977 the payment of a final dividend on the Ordinary shares of 4.10p per share, making a total distribution for the year of 7.25p per share as compared with 5.81p for 1975.

The final dividend now recommended by the Directors is in accordance with the intention declared in the Rights Issue document issued in September, 1976, and has been approved by H.M. Treasury.

The dividend will be payable on or after 1st July 1977 to Shareholders on the register on 13th May, 1977.

General Accident

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation Ltd.

World Headquarters, General Buildings, Perth, Scotland.

Verdict on tobacco substitute soon

By Patricia Tisdall

The future of cigarette Dr. Arthur Knight, the group's chairman, estimated it would cost an additional £2m to £3m to put Taberle through the committee's tests.

The two remaining main participants, which had invested heavily in Courtauld, carried through to the manufacturing and testing stage. They have been waiting for almost 20 months to start recouping their investment by being allowed to put cigarettes containing the supplement on open sale.

Imperial Group, operating jointly with ICI, started large scale manufacture of its New Smoking Material last summer in a purpose-built £14m factory at a further £5m in Scotland.

The Celanese Corporation spent around £10m on the initial development of the competing product Cytrel, which is being produced in Cumberland, Maryland, in the United States.

Courtauld has spent about £1m on developing a new smoking substance under the Taberle name when it

erred on Monday, it would be late June before a commercial launch would be ready.

Meanwhile, new developments in the production of conventional cigarettes have curbed enthusiasm for the substitutes. Consumer tests indicate smokers will accept a mixture of only 35 to 30 per cent substitute with their tobacco. But an equivalent drop in tar and nicotine yields can be achieved, for instance, by using special filters with conventional tobacco.

Dr Bentley argues that the use of substitutes will give producers much more flexibility to make low tar and nicotine cigarettes than they have at present.

Smoking characteristics of substitutes will be improved in time, and consumer tastes may change. He admits, however, that his financial and marketing colleagues may have different views.

Celanese Corporation, which became involved through the development of cellulose acetate fibres for filter tips, claims to have been the first in the field to develop supplements when in 1958 it devoted funds to a research programme.

Its Maryland plant which has been producing and shipping Cytrel since October, 1975, has a capacity for producing over 20 million lb a year.

Cytrel has been used in two Rothmans products abroad. However, the main production is aimed at the British market.

Paris, March 23.—European countries today expressed disappointment over Japan's measures to cope with the slump in world shipbuilding, notably the move to increase ship export prices by 5 per cent.

A Community source attending the two-day meeting of the shipbuilding committee of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development said Europeans consider the 5 per cent increase "too low" to have any real impact in bridging the wide gap, estimated at 30 to 40 per cent, between European and Japanese prices.

Europeans gave a "cautious welcome" to the Japanese plan presented to the committee last month by Mr Muneto Shashiki, director general of the shipbuilding bureau of the Japanese transport ministry. "But we were not told the extent of the price increase. We now know that it averages a minimum of 5 per cent and that is not satisfactory", the source said.

The Japanese relegation rejected European arguments and maintained that the Japanese plan would prove to be "very effective". "We have to wait for another couple of months to assess the effectiveness of our measures", Mr Shinichi Yanai, a member of the delegation, said.

Mr Yanai also rejected European demands for a further increase in Japanese ship export

prices. He pointed out that the 5 per cent rise, which is retroactive to orders placed from January 1 this year, is added to an inflationary element estimated at 8 per cent annually, which brings the overall increase to 13 per cent. If delivery takes place within a year.

Another factor was the recent appreciation of the Japanese yen.

Mr Yanai explained that the 5 per cent increase is added to the "standard price" for ships introduced last autumn by the Japanese ministry of transport, calculated on cost elements plus profit margin.

The 5 per cent increase applied to passenger vessels, mixed passenger-cargo boats, bulk cargo carriers and tankers, corresponding to more than 90 per cent of vessels built in Japan.

The measures would not automatically ensure that European yards would benefit, as orders lost to Japan may go to non-OECD countries.

European delegates put forward some 25 questions calling for further clarification of the Japanese plan, conference sources said.

One Community delegate said the Japanese answers were satisfactory as far as certain technical questions were concerned, adding "But we did not get all the answers we wanted, especially on non-technical aspects."—AP—Dow Jones.

Toyota may spurn Bristol dock site

Toyota is having second thoughts about setting up its national import and distribution centre at Bristol West Dock. Escalating costs and engineering problems were blamed by a spokesman, who said the company was reconsidering its whole development strategy.

The centre—planned to employ up to 600 people—was at first refused an industrial development certificate by the Government, which wanted Toyota to go to Liverpool, where unemployment is higher.

A Toyota spokesman said: "We are not concerned about the development of West Dock because of industrial problems or import controls in the short term or long term. We are re-considering after very detailed land and soil surveys."

"The cost has escalated because the land is reclaimed and the site has uneven levels and pressures. This presents civil engineering problems."

He estimated that the original cost of £5m had soared by 50 per cent. They had already approached the parent company for additional funds for the scheme, but this has been vetoed pending the results of more detailed investigations.

A decision is expected within six weeks.

The Port of Bristol Authority, which yesterday announced a 25-year agreement with Tor Line, said there no longer had been signed with Toyota.

Avonmouth's 1,300 dockers are refusing to work at the new £37m dock to support their demands for improved fringe benefits.

Europe disappointed by Japanese plan on shipbuilding

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US predicts faster rate of inflation

From Frank Vogl

Washington, March 23

Leading American Government economists have now increased their forecast for the country's inflation rate this year, according to informed sources, and they privately admit the rate will be significantly higher than last year.

Administration forecasts now envisage consumer prices rising by slightly over 6 per cent between the final quarter of 1976 and the final quarter of this year.

Only a month ago the Administration announced that it expected the rate would be about 5.5 per cent, following a roughly similar rate last year.

Leading economists are, however, still confident of the accuracy of the forecast for real gross national product will

rise this year by about 5.75 per cent to 6 per cent.

They firmly believe that business fixed investment spending will rise gradually in the months ahead and play a major role in supporting a substantial real economic growth rate.

The Administration is now preparing a packet of anti-inflation measures which will centre on some form of incomes policy.

The government's top economists stress that this will not involve any form of wage and price controls, and they admit that at best "it is likely to have only a marginal impact" on the inflation rate in the near future.

Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, said the forecast for the Administration efforts to re-

duce the overall size of the budget deficit to 6 per cent.

The Administration's leading economists, however, have no intention of changing fiscal policies at this time and they contend that Dr Burns' fears of greater deficits increasing inflation are unwarranted.

They admit, however, that food price increases are likely to be considerable and that the recent damage done to fruit and vegetable crops by the extremely bad weather is a key reason for the increase in the current year's inflation rate forecast.

Economists are hopeful that the business community will come to appreciate the economic policy aims of the Administration and the earnestness of President Carter's commitment to reduce the federal budget by 1981.

Some nations, especially in Europe, feel that this is not adequate to deal with the problem. They argue that many of the smaller nations in the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, such as Portugal, ought not to be aiming for payments equilibrium within the next few years because they cannot realistically hope to reach it.

Under the scheme as con-

IMF leader outlines aid-sharing scheme

By David Blake

Economics Correspondent

To give the International Monetary Fund a greater role in dealing with continuing payments deficits it is believed that Dr Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the fund, has now put forward proposals for sharing contributions from a string of countries including Kuwait and West Germany.

Various figures for the total amount to be raised have been discussed, from \$100,000 as a minimum up to \$200,000.

Proponents of the scheme hope to get it accepted at the meeting of the fund's interim committee in Washington on April 28 and 29.

Under the scheme as con-

ceived by Dr Witteveen and some countries, such as Germany, finance from the special facility would be channelled through the fund on return to countries in equilibrium.

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IBM employees vote next week on need for union representation

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

Wording of a questionnaire to 13,000 IBM employees on whether to recognize trade unions for the first time has been agreed. The ballot will go ahead as planned on March 31.

IBM, which has not had a strike for 25 years, is facing union demands for bargaining rights under section 11 of the Employment Protection Act. The claim was originally made by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs in respect of the company's Greenock factory, which employs 2,000 people.

But IBM has successfully argued that the ballot, which will be conducted by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), should be held throughout its United Kingdom operation. Nevertheless, the wording on the ballot forms will ensure that the Greenock votes can be separately identified.

Other unions claiming recognition are the electricians and two sections of the engineers—the white collar Technical and Supervisory Staff (Tass) and

the dominant engineering section.

Mr Eddie Nixon, managing director of IBM UK, said: "Over the years we have built up an elaborate system of principles which seem to have worked well, so much so that IBM UK has developed over 25 years without acrimony or strife."

"Now we are being asked to look at the possibility of changing all that."

The wording of perhaps the most important question reads: "Do you wish to have your pay and conditions of employment determined by negotiations between the company and a trade union acting on our behalf?" Acas is being given facilities by the company for conducting the ballot in IBM factories, and the results are not expected before the end of May.

The company is pointing to the fact that its system of industrial relations has meant no stoppages and no redundancies. It operates an extremely small ratio of employees to managers—eight to one—which is seen as enormously valuable in maintaining industrial harmony.

MAYNARDS LIMITED

Manufacturers and Retailers of

CONFECTIONERY

Wholly owned Subsidiary Companies

SUN D'OR LTD — MAYNARDS (Canada) LTD

ZODIAC (Toys) LTD

Group Interim Results

For the half year ended December, 1976 (unaudited)

	Half year ended December 1976	Half year ended December 1975	Year ended June 1976
Sales (excluding sales within the Group & VAT)	15,488	12,506	23,687
Trading Profit and other revenue	999	766	1,071
Exceptional items	24	—	48
	<u>1,023</u>	<u>766</u>	<u>1,119</u>
Estimated taxation	555	400	576
Profit after taxation	468	366	543

★ Group profits show a satisfactory advance on those for 1975.

★ Factories have achieved the anticipated improvement in value, tonnage and profit.

★ Confectionery and toy retailing divisions again turned in record sales, and the overall retail profits were fully maintained.

★ Manufacturing has ceased in Canada and the retail confectionery operation has been sold.

★ Group sales continue to increase in the present quarter but it still remains unwise to forecast future profit trends.

★ Our capital expansion programme is being continued.

★ An increased interim dividend of 5.8 per cent will be paid on 23rd May, 1977, being the maximum rate of increase permitted by present Government regulations.

KENNING MOTOR GROUP LTD

Distributors and Retailers of Cars, Commercial Vehicles, Petroleum Products and Tyres. Concessionaires for John Gull Tyres, Speedy in Service and Long Term Contract Hire, Car and Van Hire, Endorbycles, Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles, Road Transport Vehicles and Remoulded Tyres Operators of Motorway Service Areas, Insurance Brokers.

	1976	1975
Year Ended 30th September, 1976	£000	£000
Turnover	158,504	141,725
Group Trading Profit	9,570	7,829
Group Net Profit before Taxation	4,760	3,639
Dividends Distributed	847	765
Shareholders Funds (Issued Capital and Reserves)	27,554	22,341
Capital Employed (Shareholders Funds, Debentures, Loans, Deferred Taxation and Minority Interests)	46,274	38,849
Fixed Assets	34,024	26,260
Net Current Assets	12,092	12,532

Number of Shareholders 5,500
Value of Group Properties £21,600,000
Number of Employees (excluding Rhodesia) 7,203
Number of Apprentices 418

Copies of the 1976 Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Manoe Offices, Old Road, Chesterfield.

KENNING MOTOR GROUP

THE THROMMORTON TRUST

Extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann:

INVESTMENT POLICY
Your directors have continued the policy of increasing the proportion of the fund held in your company's traditional assets of investment—that of small companies—throughout the year under review.

The gap which exists between the valuation of large marketable securities and those of smaller secondary investments has been widening over the past few years as the private individual has become a less important influence in the stock market. Your Board believes that this trend is now changing and that, against the background of possible mergers and takeovers, we anticipate an improving market status for smaller companies.

NET ASSET VALUE
The net asset value attributable to one ordinary share of your company, allowing for the full conversion of the 81 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock, declined during the year from 56.7p to 49.5p (a reduction of 12.5 per cent.). This compares with a fall for the market as a whole as measured by the 30 Share Index of 16.7 per cent.

DIVIDENDS
Your directors are recommending a final dividend of 11 per cent. (2.75p per share) making a total of 16 per cent. (4.00p per share) for the year. This increased annual dividend consolidated the special bonus dividend of 11 per cent. (0.375p per share) paid last year.

In the absence of unforeseen circumstances your Board will expect to be able to recommend for the current financial year an interim dividend of 8 per cent.

Copies of the Report may be obtained from the Secretary
25 MILK STREET, LONDON EC3V 5JE

مكتبة النجدي

BICC Limited 1976 Results

Highlights from the Statement of the Chairman—Mr. C. H. Broughton Pipkin

- Pre-tax profits up in spite of adverse trading conditions and the present economic situation.
- Improved performance of UK based companies — particularly Balfour Beatty which is now making a healthy contribution to Group profits.
- Profitability of UK manufacturing still unsatisfactory — particularly if the effects of inflation are taken into account.
- Substantial expansion in export sales (47% up) which, together with sales of overseas companies, now account for 58% of total sales.
- Subject to unforeseen circumstances, overall continuing improvement in performance anticipated in 1977.
- The Company recognises the very real contribution made by all employees to these results and will actively continue to encourage their involvement in all aspects of the business.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	1976 £m	1975 £m
GROUP SALES		
United Kingdom	377.5	343.6
Exports	165.2	112.4
Overseas	355.7	302.1
	898.4	758.1
OPERATING PROFIT	53.3	43.4
FINANCE CHARGES	9.8	11.2
PRE-TAX PROFIT	43.5	32.2
TAXATION	23.0	14.0
AFTER-TAX PROFIT	20.5	18.2
MINORITY INTERESTS	7.0	6.1
ATTRIBUTABLE PROFIT	13.5	12.1
EARNINGS PER SHARE	p 9.70	p 9.66
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE—Net	6.61	6.61

The above figures exclude Extraordinary Losses on Investments of £5.5m (1975—£6.8m)

The Final Ordinary Dividend of 4.36p net per Share (1975—4.36p net per Share) will be paid to Ordinary Shareholders registered in the books of the Company on 25th May, 1977. Warrants will be posted on 25th June, 1977, payable 1st July, 1977.

The complete Press Release (which includes an analysis of performance by Group Companies and a Statement of the Group Financial Position) is available from the Secretary, BICC Limited, P.O. Box No. 5, 21, Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3QN.

The 1976 Annual Report will be posted to Share and Loan Stock Holders on 5th May, 1977.

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Cornhill Insurance Group Controlled Expansion and Record Profit

Results

	1976 £000	1975 £000
Written Premiums		
General	65,583	52,213
Life	8,544	3,564
Trading Profits		
Underwriting Transfers	218	(402)
Life	—	—
Investment Income	5,647	3,918
Non-insurance company activities	72	28
Profit Before Taxation	5,937	3,544
Taxation	2,875	1,685
Profit After Taxation	3,062	1,859
Minorities	1	1
Profit Attributable to Shareholders	3,061	1,858

A policy of prudent underwriting and controlled expansion enabled Cornhill to make a profit of £5,937,000, an all time record, and almost 67 per cent higher than in 1975. Non-life premiums rose from £52m to £66m, a large proportion coming from inflation. Nonetheless, real growth was achieved in certain classes and in some geographical areas and with premiums more realistically set at the levels dictated by inflation, the prospect for a more rapid expansion in 1977 is good.

UNITED KINGDOM

In 1976, the motor account was almost static but a satisfactory underwriting surplus was achieved.

A sharp rise in the cost of claims — particularly those from motor and subsidence — had an adverse effect on the property account. Household business was difficult with many small insured on house property and personal effects representing less than their current replacement value. The engineering changes referred to in the 1975 report are now complete and have done much to bring the engineering account into balance.

Realistic rating levels, a continuing policy of careful underwriting and the more effective use of an expanding practical safety advisory service have enabled an underwriting surplus to be produced in the liability account.

Pecuniary loss business continues to produce a very good result but growth is disappointing.

The personal accident account continues to grow slowly and a return to an underwriting profit has been achieved.

OVERSEAS

In Canada, the rapid pace of development experienced in 1975 was sustained throughout 1976 with written premiums more than 38 per cent up on those of the previous year.

New Zealand underwriting losses continue but specific steps have now been taken to reduce the heavy expense costs.

In Germany, a series of large and expensive fire losses resulted in an under-

writing deficit, but the long-term prospects are good.

Progress continued in Hong Kong with new business being obtained at a satisfactory rate.

Good results came from Norway and Denmark but trading was difficult in Holland.

A number of new underwriting agencies were established during 1976 in several other parts of the world.

LIFE Further substantial growth of annual premium conventional life assurance business was achieved. The results of the triennial valuation of the Life Fund will shortly be available and the first reversionary bonus for with-profits contracts will be declared.

MARINE AND AVIATION Most of Cornhill's subsidiary companies performed satisfactorily with particularly creditable results from Trafalgar Insurance Company Limited.

FINANCIAL The dividends for the year amounted to £1,300,000. After transfers to pensions reserve etc. of £131,000, retained shareholders' funds increased by £1,630,000.

Although the rate of inflation in the U.K. in 1976 fell from the unprecedented figure of 1975, it still continues at a level which necessitates further external support for the

company's capital base. Consequently the parent company, Thomas Tilling, has increased the capital of Cornhill by a further £2m to ensure that the company's position remains strong. Shareholders' funds at the year end at balance sheet value amounted to £17,537,000 and the solvency ratio at market value was 37%.

BOARD AND STAFF

In 1976 I succeeded Mr. Stanley Harding as Chairman of Cornhill following his resignation on retiring from his executive appointment as Financial Director of Thomas Tilling. The Board joins me in thanking him for his invaluable help and guidance during the time he was a Director of the Company. Mr. Francis Black, Mr. Julian Faber and Mr. Ronnie Taylor resigned from the Board during 1976. We are grateful to all three retiring Directors for their contribution to Cornhill.

Mr. Christopher Bostock, F.C.A., M.A. was appointed a Director on September 14, 1976.

The Board is fully aware of the problems created by the present economic difficulties and is grateful for the support received during 1976 from dedicated staff in all parts of the world and thanks them for their contribution towards a most satisfactory result. The continuing support of policyholders, brokers and agents is warmly acknowledged.

OUTLOOK Although substantial, the level of profit achieved by Cornhill is still insufficient to sustain a fast rate of growth in an inflationary economy and more capital will need to be invested in both Cornhill and in other United Kingdom insurance companies if they are to retain their position as leaders in the world insurance market. But it needs to be remembered that capital can only be attracted to any industry by the prospect of a reasonable return on its investment. And, in turn, this requires the acceptance by both Government and consumer that reasonable levels of operating profit are essential. These can only be achieved by more adequate premiums. There are, I believe, signs that this essential prerequisite is becoming more generally understood and I therefore look forward to the future with more confidence than has been possible for a number of years.

COLIN J. DRAPER
Chairman

Copies of the full statement and the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary at 32 Cornhill, London EC3V 3LL.

Cornhill Insurance Group

A member of the Thomas Tilling Group

UCM takes off on its broad springboard

By Tony May

With all areas of the group, at home and overseas, contributing, United City Merchants is heading for another bumper year. A 71 per cent jump took pre-tax profits for the six months to December 31 up to £2.18m—not far short of the record £2.8m brought in over the whole of 1975-76.

There are no signs of the slackening and trading since January continues to be very active throughout the group. Subject to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Eric Sosnow, the chairman, thinks the annual results should be "most satisfactory". Turnover was 70 per cent higher at £90.8m, with exports showing "very substantial" growth. Margins are slightly higher at 2.4 per cent, against 2.38 per cent.

Although trading was good across the board, the sharpest improvement came in the timber, leather and automotive engineering exports.

On attributable profits up from £638,000 to £1.16m, the group is raising the dividend from 0.67p (adjusted for scrip) to 0.69p gross. Net earnings a share are 5.1p compared with 2.5p.

The group was one of yesterday's "active shares" on the Stock Exchange with a 5p rise to 36p. Its strength is its wide spread of interests, and the combination of a weak pound and rising overseas trade is particularly favourable for a business covering a dozen countries and ranging over banking, engineering and timber to leather, shipping and forwarding.

One of UCM's recent ventures



Mr. Eric Sosnow

was the contract to build a £51m jute mill in Vietnam announced in December—with the group heading the consortium.

Jackson & Steeple come in out of cold

As foreshadowed a month ago, when discussions were initiated, unlisted company John Jackson & Sons (Holdings) in an agreed deal proposes to take over the whole of Jackson & Steeple at a price of 40p cash a share.

Hawkins has no dyeing and finishing facilities. The two groups have had a close relationship for many years. Further, Hawkins is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Grandston, the whole of whose capital is owned directly or through family trusts by Mr. Menaged and his two brothers. They also own directly through family companies about 60.5 per cent of the J & S equity. With other directors holding 5,000 shares, they intend to accept for 6.1 per cent of the capital.

The directors of the two companies feel that a merger will create a strongly-based group of a size and financial strength

which will better enable them to compete in the difficult trading being experienced in British textiles. All the directors of J & S and advisers Hitchens, Harrison, consider the terms of the offer fair.

Hawkins has given assurances that the interests of the present management and staff of J & S will be fully safeguarded.

Results of J & S show a return into the black. But because of liquidity problems there is no dividend for 1976. In the preceding year it paid 2.15p. Turnover rose from £3.13m to £5.7m in 1976 on which a loss of £53,000 was turned into a pre-tax profit of £199,000.

Record year and scrip by Banro

A one-for-one scrip issue and bumper results for 1976 are the package from Banro Consolidated Industries (formerly William Bate (Holdings)), a motor ancillary group. All subsidiaries contributed to a 35 per cent gain in turnover to £9.5m and a near-doubling of pre-tax profits to a record £651,000. The dividend is raised from 5.9p to 7.16p gross.

Mr. Edward Rose, chairman, says that the first half of the new year is likely to suffer from the disputes in the motor industry. Prospects for the second half are "very good". The group is ready to take advantage of a strong and potentially profitable order book, which includes new contracts for off-highway vehicle components.

After six months profits were up 16.5 per cent at £107m and order books pointed to this rate of growth being at least held until year-end. Though aware that Government measures would restrict work in Britain, its overseas interests continued to do well. Generally, it has been well placed to benefit from North Sea oil and this has helped to offset the predicted fall in work in the public sector.

Another shareholders' revolt is being stirred by Mr. Leslie Harris, the Eastbourne accountant who heads the shareholders' Ginger Group. He feels that "an action group is required" on Crystalgate Holdings.

Mr. Harris complains of an announcement that Crystalgate and DWEK Group have agreed to a Crystalgate subsidiary acquiring from Westware Plastics its plant, stock and goodwill at a figure of around £500,000.

"Westware Plastics (says Mr. Harris) has lost money for the past three years. DWEK has a total market capitalization of £675,000."

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Institutions bring in new brooms at Kingside

By Ronald Pullen

Following pressure from the major institutional shareholders over the poor performance of Kingside Investment, the team has been reconstructed, and new brooms there are considering ways of "maximizing the return of assets to shareholders within twelve months."

Criticism has been mounting over the past year. Lack of confidence in the existing management led to the resignation of all the directors except Messrs M. F. Heathcoat-Amory, T. C. Pilkington and A. J. Heber-Percy at Tuesday's annual meeting.

They have been replaced by Messrs Ralph Hedderwick, Charles Noble of stockbroker Hedderwick, Strickland & Co. who have been brokers to Kingside since it was founded, yesterday Mr. Hedderwick was also elected chairman.

Commenting that there is a "great little future for the independent investment fund," Mr. Hedderwick said that he was looking at the new board, looking at the company's sale, utilization or winding up of the trust.

Kingside's problems date from the time Secretary of State J. H. Vassell took over the investment management since when the group's heavy concentration in unquoted stocks has led to a steady fall in net asset value.

Net assets were 48.1p a share at February 28, against a share price yesterday of 39p.

Margins a fillip to FJC Lilley

Better margins contributed to a record first half at civil engineering group F. J. C. Lilley, and this trend was maintained in the full year to January 31. Further significant advances were recorded with new peaks in turnover and profit.

On turnover up from £27.4m to £34.5m, pre-tax profit increased by 25 per cent to £2.52m. Earnings a share improved from 8.99p to 11.01p, and the board raises the total dividend from the equivalent of 1.81p to 2p gross.

For the present term, the order book has never been higher. This justifies the directors' belief that the ground won in 1976-77 will be more than maintained in the current year.

After six months profits were up 16.5 per cent at £107m and order books pointed to this rate of growth being at least held until year-end. Though aware that Government measures would restrict work in Britain, its overseas interests continued to do well. Generally, it has been well placed to benefit from North Sea oil and this has helped to offset the predicted fall in work in the public sector.

Another shareholders' revolt is being stirred by Mr. Leslie Harris, the Eastbourne accountant who heads the shareholders' Ginger Group. He feels that "an action group is required" on Crystalgate Holdings.

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£10.2

مكتبة الجليل

MARKET REPORTS

Lower tin prices on LME hits level in Penang

The Straits tin price fell sharply on Penang yesterday, losing \$380.50 per picul to \$1,453.625. This left the price well below the \$1,500 level, the highest since the agreement.

Market sources said that the fall was due to lower prices on the London Metal Exchange and a renewed buying from Japan and the United States. Turnover fell to 14 tonnes from 230 tonnes on Tuesday.

The Penang price has now fallen \$165.375 this week from last Friday's level of \$1,619.00. The highest price the price has reached was \$1,560, on March 16.

Afternoon Standard cash tin price was \$1,453.625, three months \$1,453.625, six months \$1,453.625, nine months \$1,453.625, and one year \$1,453.625. The price was \$1,453.625, three months \$1,453.625, six months \$1,453.625, nine months \$1,453.625, and one year \$1,453.625.

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank 10 1/2%
Consolidated Credits 11 1/2%
First London Secs 11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co 10 1/2%
Lloyds Bank 10 1/2%
Midland Bank 10 1/2%
Nat Westminster 10 1/2%
Rothmans Acc's 10 1/2%
Shenley Trust 14%
Williams & Glyn's 10 1/2%
A 7-day deposit on the basis of 210.00 and 210.00, up to 125.00, 7 1/2%, over 125.00, 7 1/2%.

M. V. ENGELSCHE-HOLLANDSCHE BELGIËN EN DUTCH INVESTMENT TRUST

Participation Certificates (issued by Royal Exchange Assurance)

Notice is hereby given that a gross dividend on the Participation Certificates of 104.00 (one hundred and four cents) will be payable in Sterling on or after 1st July 1977, against presentation of the certificate.

The dividend will be payable as follows, subject to the provision of the appropriate Netherlands Tax affidavit where necessary:

To Certificate Holders who are subject to United Kingdom Income Tax, less 15 per cent Netherlands Withholding Tax and United Kingdom Income Tax at 20 per cent on the gross dividend.

To residents of other countries with which the Netherlands have concluded tax agreements, under deduction of 15 per cent Netherlands Withholding Tax and United Kingdom Income Tax at 20 per cent on the gross dividend.

To residents of all other countries, less 25 per cent Netherlands Withholding Tax.

Certificate Holders resident outside the United Kingdom will receive payment as United Kingdom Income Tax at the rate of 20 per cent on the net amount. The statements of account will be accompanied by a copy of the United Kingdom Affidavit of non-residence. The statements of account will be accompanied by a copy of the United Kingdom Affidavit of non-residence.

To residents of the Netherlands, less 15 per cent Netherlands Withholding Tax and United Kingdom Income Tax at 20 per cent on the gross dividend.

To residents of all other countries, less 25 per cent Netherlands Withholding Tax.

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Recent Issues

1976/77
High Low Company Price Chgs Divid Yld P/E

35	27	Airsprung Ord	35	-	4.2	6.9
118	100	Airsprung 18 1/2% CULS	118	-	18.5	15.7
32	25	Armstrong & Rhodes	32	-	3.0	10.7
114	95	Deborah Ord	114	-	8.2	8.6
122	104	Deborah 17 1/2% CULS	122	-	17.5	16.1
62	45	Henry Stokes	62	-	4.5	5.7
81	55	James Burroughs	81	-	6.0	7.4
233	188	Robert Jenkins	233	-	25.0	10.7
24	8	Twinkl Ord	24	-	1.0	1.9
67	54	Twinkl 12% ULS	67	-	12.0	20.3
63	51	Unilever Holdings	63	-	6.1	11.1
74	65	Walker Alexander	74	-	5.8	8.1

M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE & CO. LIMITED

62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8EP. Tel: 01-638 8651

A. Beckman Limited

Interim Results (Unaudited) for the six months ended 31st December 1976

	6 months to 31.12.76	6 months to 31.12.75
Turnover	£8,438,891	£7,377,195
Profit before Taxation	£883,191	£784,125
Earnings per share (on increased share capital)	4.4p	4.32p

The company is happy to report record turnover and profits for the first six months of the current year.

Interim dividend of 1.75p per share declared (1975 - 1.385p per share, actual after adjustment for the 1 for 12 bonus issue) which together with tax credit is equivalent to 2.69p per share (1975 - 2.13p per share).

The company continues to expand its turnover. Your directors intend, subject to unforeseen circumstances, to pay the maximum permitted dividend for the year.

A. Beckman Limited, 112 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6JB.

Copies of the Interim Report are available from the Company at the above address.

Commodities

SUGAR futures were steady. The London price of 16 months was \$11.50, 18 months \$11.50, 24 months \$11.50, and 36 months \$11.50. The price was \$11.50, 16 months \$11.50, 18 months \$11.50, 24 months \$11.50, and 36 months \$11.50.

COFFEE futures were steady. The London price of 16 months was \$11.50, 18 months \$11.50, 24 months \$11.50, and 36 months \$11.50. The price was \$11.50, 16 months \$11.50, 18 months \$11.50, 24 months \$11.50, and 36 months \$11.50.

WHEAT futures were steady. The London price of 16 months was \$11.50, 18 months \$11.50, 24 months \$11.50, and 36 months \$11.50. The price was \$11.50, 16 months \$11.50, 18 months \$11.50, 24 months \$11.50, and 36 months \$11.50.

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Foreign Exchange

Sterling closed at the day's high in European currency trading yesterday, advancing to a late \$1.780 from \$1.762 overnight, a gain of 18 points, as concern over the future of the Labour government faded. The effective rate was 61.7 per cent.

The yen advanced sharply throughout the session in Europe, moving to 276.50/277.20 against the dollar at the close as speculation gathered that Japan is allowing a powerful appreciation of its currency, dealers said.

The yen had closed at 274.40 in Tokyo earlier, with little clear sign of any bank of Japan intervention to arrest the currency's advance.

In Tokyo, foreign exchange banking sources said the yen was likely to continue appreciating as the central bank appears increasingly cautious about intervening to stem its strength.

At 11.00, the yen was at 276.50/277.20 against the dollar, an ounce to close in London at \$153.625.

Spot Position of Sterling

Market rates (100 Sterling =)

New York	117.50-117.75
London	100.00
Paris	16.60-16.65
Frankfurt	1.80-1.85
Geneva	1.80-1.85
Basel	1.80-1.85
Brussels	1.80-1.85
Amsterdam	1.80-1.85
Stockholm	1.80-1.85
Copenhagen	1.80-1.85
Helsinki	1.80-1.85
Oslo	1.80-1.85
Stockholm	1.80-1.85
Copenhagen	1.80-1.85
Helsinki	1.80-1.85
Oslo	1.80-1.85

Forward Levels

1 month 117.50-117.75
3 months 117.50-117.75
6 months 117.50-117.75
9 months 117.50-117.75
12 months 117.50-117.75

Gold

Gold price in London, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974, 1973, 1972, 1971, 1970, 1969, 1968, 1967, 1966, 1965, 1964, 1963, 1962, 1961, 1960, 1959, 1958, 1957, 1956, 1955, 1954, 1953, 1952, 1951, 1950, 1949, 1948, 1947, 1946, 1945, 1944, 1943, 1942, 1941, 1940, 1939, 1938, 1937, 1936, 1935, 1934, 1933, 1932, 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928, 1927, 1926, 1925, 1924, 1923, 1922, 1921, 1920, 1919, 1918, 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1909, 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905, 1904, 1903, 1902, 1901, 1900, 1899, 1898, 1897, 1896, 1895, 1894, 1893, 1892, 1891, 1890, 1889, 1888, 1887, 1886, 1885, 1884, 1883, 1882, 1881, 1880, 1879, 1878, 1877, 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872, 1871, 1870, 1869, 1868, 1867, 1866, 1865, 1864, 1863, 1862, 1861, 1860, 1859, 1858, 1857, 1856, 1855, 1854, 1853, 1852, 1851, 1850, 1849, 1848, 1847, 1846, 1845, 1844, 1843, 1842, 1841, 1840, 1839, 1838, 1837, 1836, 1835, 1834, 1833, 1832, 1831, 1830, 1829, 1828, 1827, 1826, 1825, 1824, 1823, 1822, 1821, 1820, 1819, 1818, 1817, 1816, 1815, 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CAR BUYER'S GUIDE

Practicality in the Renault 14 hatchback

Renault seems to have a flair for timing up with the right car at the right time; its new 14 hatchback, which is on sale here at the end of the month, is no exception.

The essential feature of the car is its practicality, providing the maximum interior space within compact dimensions. Thus, it has four doors and a tailgate, the rear seat can be folded to increase the luggage space, and with the overall length of 171 in, the car is not too big for tight parking.

To all that must be added the usual ingredients of an engine more powerful than its cubic capacity might suggest, soft and comfortable seats and an excellent ride. By 1980 or so the car should become one of Europe's most important cars.

The design is by no means original, any of its features are already found in the Volkswagen Golf, which, though a foot shorter, also offers good passenger and luggage space, and the Leyland Maxi, launched eight years ago.

These cars offer an alternative to the traditional "three-box" saloon with separate compartments for engine, passengers and luggage. It will be interesting to see whether the greater versatility of the hatchback eventually reveals Renault's lead in styling as being by running the 14 side by side with its conventional 12 model.

The 14 is not a direct replacement for any existing Renault car, although it brings the number of bodystyles to eight, it seems likely that there will be some pruning in the next few years. The 14, for instance, could replace the 12, the 15, the 16, the 17, the 18, the 19, the 20, the 21, the 22, the 23, the 24, the 25, the 26, the 27, the 28, the 29, the 30, the 31, the 32, the 33, the 34, the 35, the 36, the 37, the 38, the 39, the 40, the 41, the 42, the 43, the 44, the 45, the 46, the 47, the 48, the 49, the 50, the 51, the 52, the 53, the 54, the 55, the 56, the 57, the 58, the 59, the 60, the 61, the 62, the 63, the 64, the 65, the 66, the 67, the 68, the 69, the 70, the 71, the 72, the 73, the 74, the 75, the 76, the 77, the 78, the 79, the 80, the 81, the 82, the 83, the 84, the 85, the 86, the 87, the 88, the 89, the 90, the 91, the 92, the 93, the 94, the 95, the 96, the 97, the 98, the 99, the 100, the 101, the 102, the 103, the 104, the 105, the 106, the 107, the 108, the 109, the 110, the 111, the 112, the 113, the 114, the 115, the 116, the 117, the 118, the 119, the 120, the 121, the 122, the 123, the 124, the 125, the 126, the 127, the 128, the 129, the 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